

# THE ALABAMA HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

PETER A. BRANNON, *Editor*



*Published by the*  
**State Department  
of  
Archives and History**

---

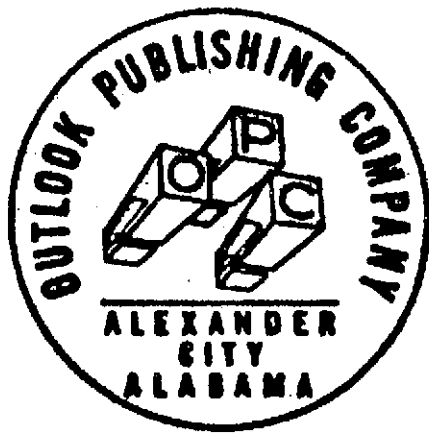
Vol. 20

No. 1

---

SPRING ISSUE

1958



1958

# CONTENTS

	Page
Editorial .....	5
Athens Academy and College, <i>by Richard W. Griffin</i> .....	7
More About Mordecai, <i>by Peter A. Brannon</i> .....	27
Robert Alexander Smith, A Southern Son, <i>by William Robert Stevenson</i> .....	35
That Doctor—The Spy, <i>by Mrs. Octavia Fletcher Frazier</i> .....	61
The Origin of the Confederate Post Office Department and Comments on Some Stamps .....	65
James D. Lynch in War and Peace, <i>by James A. Carpenter</i> .....	71
Personal Recollections of Andrew Malone Hill .....	85
Clarke County Salt Works, <i>by Dr. T. J. Krouse</i> .....	95
LaFayette Artillery Book, Summerfield .....	101
Fannin Family Records, <i>from Mrs. Nannie H. Raley</i> .....	127
Flags Over Alabama, <i>by Mary S. Owsley</i> .....	131





## EDITORIAL

This number of the *Quarterly* is intended to include a general over-all miscellany of material which it is hoped will have an appeal throughout the State.

Attention is called to the several chapters which make contributions to the Confederate period in the life of the State. Two of these chapters are personal reminiscences and others are referable to the participation of Alabamians in the efforts of the Confederacy.



# ATHENS ACADEMY AND COLLEGE: AN EXPERIMENT IN WOMEN'S EDUCATION IN ALABAMA, 1822-1873

By

RICHARD W. GRIFFIN

Assistant Professor of History

Alabama Polytechnic Institute

The rapid settlement of North Alabama in the early years of the nineteenth century brought in thousands of people, who were products of the cultural institutions of the older states they left behind. Many wealthy families moving into this frontier region were anxious to duplicate similar institutions for their children, and frequently had the financial resources to fulfill this desire.

One of these settlers was John McKinley, a native of Virginia, who moved to the southwestern frontier to carve out a career in the rapidly expanding region.<sup>1</sup> An active citizen of Huntsville, where he began his legal career as a local judge, he was the owner of a large part of the property of the town of Athens. In the autumn of 1822 he presented to Athens a tract of land for the establishment of a school, "provided the citizens would build a suitable school house, employ a competent teacher, and establish a respectable Female Academy."

The Athenians, accepting the challenge, selected a committee of their most prominent residents to take advantage of the gift: Judge Daniel Coleman, Ruffin Coleman, William J. Mason, Captain Robert Beaty, John D. Carroll, and James C. Malone. These men proceeded to build a small school house and to hire the Rev. Daniel P. Bester, then employed in Kentucky as a teacher, as the first principal.<sup>2</sup>

Athens Academy, although a Christian institution, was throughout its formative years non-denominational, as shown by the variety of church connections of its principals: Rev. Daniel P. Bester, 1822-1826, Baptist;

---

<sup>1</sup> **Biographical Directory of the American Congress** (Washington, 1950), 1542. John McKinley was born in Virginia in 1780; he was elected to the United States Senate from Alabama in 1826, and in 1837 was appointed an associate justice of the United States Supreme Court.

<sup>2</sup> The Athens (Ala.) **Post**, May 16, 1867; April 3, 1869; **Alabama Courier** (Athens, Ala.), May 2, 1895.

Rev. Joseph Wood, 1826-1834, Old School Presbyterian; Mrs. Rebecca Hobbs, 1834-1836, Methodist; Mr. William Duncan, 1836-1839, Baptist; and the Rev. Simpson Shepherd, 1839-1842, Methodist.<sup>3</sup> The intellectual qualifications of these men varied greatly, and although Joseph Wood served the longest term, he evidently left much to be desired. He was described as:

a sober, upright, plodding teacher, faithful to what he esteemed his duties and responsibilities. He was in no way a marked man, but moved on smoothly and methodically with his duties, both scholastic and pastoral. He gave satisfaction, as might be presumed from the length of time he was retained, but it must be remembered that scholars, in that day, suitable for such positions, were scarce and their services difficult to obtain.<sup>4</sup>

Mrs. Rebecca Hobbs, his successor and the wife of a wealthy planter, was one of the most successful principals of the academy. Her tenure marked the beginning of the influence of the Methodist Church, but her sex involved her in a dispute with the trustees and she resigned.<sup>5</sup> The trustees then announced with considerable confidence the employment of a superior principal, William Duncan. At the same time, in order to attract more patronage for the school, they announced the many improvements which had been made at the academy, including a new two-story building, in addition to the original building, which had four large classrooms. Two of the rooms in the new structure were reserved for special departments: one a science laboratory where "Chemical and Philosophical apparatus" were kept, and the other a "music room to which will be attached a splendid Piano Forte for the use of the institution."

It was evident that every effort was made to develop the Athens Female Academy into a first class institution, both in instruction and equipment. William Duncan, who was described as a "profound scholar . . . well versed in all branches of polite literature," made an extensive tour of the finest eastern schools to familiarize himself with the latest educational practices as well as to look for additional teachers. He was assisted at the Academy by two local ladies: Mrs. Rebecca Hobbs and Mrs. Ball.

<sup>3</sup> *The Athenian* (Athens, Ala.), December 5, 1834.

<sup>4</sup> *The Athens Post*, April 10, 1869.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, July 5, 1876.

Every effort was made to attract additional patronage from a distance; and the town was described as healthful, religious and having a high moral tone. In addition to these reasons for enrolling pupils, the academy offered a wide and varied curriculum.<sup>6</sup> The school had no boarding facilities, however, the parents of prospective pupils were assured that there were many excellent homes in Athens which would provide good food and care for a large number of students.<sup>7</sup>

Simpson Shepherd was the last principal and the first Methodist minister to be associated with Athens Academy. Under his direction, and with the assistance of his daughters Mary and Ellen, the academy continued to operate. Mary Shepherd was in charge of the music department, which had been materially improved by William Duncan. Athens Academy was said to be "in sound and prosperous condition, and under its direction and influence young ladies can obtain an education as thorough as at any other academy South or West," despite such advertisements, it did not prosper under Shepherd and the enrollment declined steadily.<sup>8</sup> The last independent session of the academy was held in the spring of 1842.

It was the unprofitable operation of the school which finally determined the trustees to seek for a permanent solution to the recurring problems. In the fall of 1842 the Tennessee Conference of the Methodist Church met at Athens, there a special committee was appointed to study a series of proposals from the trustees of Athens Academy. The trustees agreed that a denominational connection would be very helpful, both in increasing the number of students and the financial support for the academy. They proposed that the Tennessee Conference adopt the Academy, use its influence to secure money for its operation, and to

---

<sup>6</sup> **The Democrat** (Huntsville, Ala.), August 2, 1836. "First session under present instructors will commence on the first Monday in Oct. next, the following branches of education will be taught:

Elementary department—Orthography, Reading, Writing and Intellectual Arithmetic.

Junior Department—Reading, Writing, Intellectual and Practical Arithmetic, Modern History, Geography and Grammar.

Senior Department—Grammar of Elocution, Rhetoric, Composition, Ancient and Modern History, Natural and Moral Philosophy, Botany, Geometry, Astronomy, Mythology.

Extras—Instruction in Pianor Forte by Mr. Duncan, French, Italian, Spanish and Latin Languages, Painting and Drawing, Science and Art of Sacred Music."

<sup>7</sup> **Ibid.**, December 23, 1824, Charles Kin of Huntsville advertised his intention of moving to Athens and his willingness "to take a few FEMALE BOARDERS, that intend going to the academy at that place, on moderate terms."

<sup>8</sup> **Ibid.**, December 31, 1842; **The Athens Post**, April 10, 1869.

encourage the enrollment of Methodist girls. The trustees promised to raise enough money locally to build a new and larger building and to increase the size of the campus, "and otherwise exert themselves to make a first-class Female School." In return, the Tennessee Conference received the right to appoint several trustees and otherwise to influence school policies.<sup>9</sup> A committee was appointed to apply for a charter from the State of Alabama, and the Academy was incorporated as "the Female Institute of the Tennessee Annual Conference."<sup>10</sup>

The trustees of the new collegiate institute began immediately to fulfill their commitments to the conference. They chose their own financial agent, as the agent selected by the Conference was found to be unsuitable as "he seemed little inclined to enter into the work." The Rev. E. H. Hatcher was to solicit funds to increase the property of the institution and to provide for a new building suitable to its new rank. Rev. Hatcher, described as "poet, . . . orator and able divine," proved a wise choice as he raised, within a few months, cash and pledges amounting to \$16,000. However, the pledges were often payable over several years and their ultimate collection was due to the efforts of Judge Daniel Coleman, "at the time judge of the Judicial Circuit, and he made it part of his business at all of his courts to bring this matter before his friends, and I believe always successfully." Founders Hall, a magnificent building in the Greek revival style, is a monument to Judge Coleman's "industry, energy, philanthropy and great love of learning." The people of Athens contributed generously to the completion of the structure, and Dr. A. L. P. Green, of Athens, was responsible for its design and "adaption to school purposes."<sup>11</sup>

Robert Beaty and members of the Hobbs family donated several tracts of land which adjoined the original campus to enlarge the campus. The main building was constructed on this new land from brick and cement made on the site by slaves. James M. Brundige supervised the exterior construction, while Ira E. Hobbs directed the interior finish.<sup>12</sup>

While the building was under construction, college classes were

<sup>9</sup> **The Athens Post**, April 24, 1869.

<sup>10</sup> **The Democrat** (Huntsville), February 25, 1843.

<sup>11</sup> **The Athens Post**, April 24, 1869, Trustees of the college were: Daniel Coleman, President; Benjamin Maclin, secretary; James C. Malone, Treasurer; William Richardson, vice-president; and Ira E. Hobbs, Dr. James F. Sowell, George S. Houston, Richard W. Vassar, Jonathan F. Driskell, Joshua Boucher, Frederick G. Ferguson.

<sup>12</sup> Mary Moore McCoy, **History of Athens College**, (Birmingham, 1916), 8.

held in the old Academy building behind, and after the completion of Founders Hall the girls were housed in the older building until it burned in 1860.<sup>13</sup>

Once the physical improvements were in process of completion, the Board of Trustees turned their attention to the selection of a president and faculty. They chose the Reverend Richard Henderson Rivers, a member of the faculty of LaGrange College, as president and on July 10, 1843, the first session of the Institute began with a faculty of eight. These faculty members taught in both preparatory and collegiate divisions of the Institute. Music continued to be one of the most important fields of instruction. President Rivers announced to the public, as a result of many inquiries, that "the music department, . . . is under the joint superintendence of Prof. J. C. Kathrens and Mrs. F. G. Ferguson. Prof. Kathrens exhibits testimonials of his capacity to teach every kind of instrumental music." The curriculum was generally quite broad.<sup>14</sup>

In selecting a faculty qualified for the new school four of the eight professors were selected from among the trustees or their wives. The trustees announced in the press that the institution well merited the rank of a college as it offered not only an extensive course of lectures but also had available the latest scientific and musical instruments. As part of the original agreement with the Tennessee Conference the school offered free tuition for the children of itinerant ministers of the conference, and Methodists were urged to send their daughters to the school. Tuition rates for both the academy and the college were kept as low as possible as a further attraction.<sup>15</sup>

The former academy was soon called Rivers Academy, and although overshadowed, continued as an integral part of the college offering the preparatory classes until it was closed in 1931.

---

<sup>13</sup> **The Alabama Courier**, May 2, 1895. Anson West, **A History of Methodism in Alabama** (Nashville, 1893), 632.

<sup>14</sup> **The Democrat** (Huntsville), July 13, December 14, 1843. The faculty and curriculum were as follows: "Richard H. Rivers, A.M., President, Professor of Languages and Belles Lettres; Robert J. Mendum, A.M., Professor of Mathematics and Natural Science; Rev. F. G. Ferguson, Professor of Moral Philosophy and Principal of the Preparatory School; Miss Annie W. Lanier, Tutoress; J. C. Kathrens and Mrs. F. G. Ferguson, Music; Mrs. Rebecca C. Hobbs, Drawing and Painting; Dr. J. F. Sowell, Lecturer on Physiology, Botany and Chemistry."

<sup>15</sup> **Ibid.** Tuition per session. Preparatory Department, \$8; Reading and Spelling, \$12; Collegiate Department, \$20; Music, \$20; Drawing and Painting, \$10; Boarding, including fires, candles and washing, \$40; Matriculation Fee, \$1.



The first session of Athens College opened with an enrollment of two hundred girls in its various divisions. President Rivers was well liked by the patrons of the institution: community, trustees, and conference. He served as president for six years, and gained a wide experience which served him well as he later was president of the Conference Female Institute at Jackson, Tennessee; of LaGrange College; of Florence Wesleyan University; and Centenary Institute at Summerfield, Alabama.<sup>16</sup>

A contemporary evaluation indicates that President Rivers was a man of broad humanity, who, although popular, was not particularly a good manager. A trustee contrasted him with his successor, Benjamin H. Hubbard, who was elevated from the ranks of the faculty, in the following words:

Dr. Hubbard was very clear and able, both in schoolroom and pulpit, and left us much a deeply regretted. He was not Dr. Rivers' peer in scholarship, but any man's in dignity, elegance, refinement and conscientiousness. The school was large under his management, reaching in one session one hundred and 86 scholars; his faculty was able and their teaching thorough and exhaustive in all the branches, and his conduct of the school gave full satisfaction. He was, by far, the superior of Dr. Rivers in financial ability. Dr. R. sunk money here, whereas he ought to have made much. Dr. Hubbard made much money, and left us financially strong. In conclusion, Dr. Rivers was affable, playful, social, 'full of the milk of human kindness,' and withal, somewhat, at times undignified. Dr. Hubbard was dignified, retiring and exceedingly accomplished in manner, address, and dress.<sup>17</sup>

Under President Hubbard's able administration the college continued to flourish and his superior financial management made the institution a solvent operation. In 1849-1850 the college had wide patronage from all over the South. Although the majority of the students were from Athens and Limestone county, 10 were from Mississippi, 1 from Louisiana, 14 from Tennessee, 4 from Texas, 2 from Maryland, and 3 from Virginia.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>16</sup> Birmingham **Age-Herald**, April 6, 1934; The Selma (Ala.) **Times-Journal** April 1, 1934; **Southern College Magazine**, (Florence Wesleyan University, October, 1856), I, 124-125.

<sup>17</sup> **The Athens Post**, May 1, 1869.

<sup>18</sup> **Catalogue of the Officers and Students of the Tennessee Conference Female Institute, 1849-1850** (Athens, Ala., 1850), 5-8; **Ibid.**, 1850-1851 (Pulaski, Tenn., 1851), 5-9.



The catalogues of the Institute listed courses in the preparatory department as well as the collegiate offerings. The purpose of the college was stated as to offer to women and education equal to that of men.

This is rather an innovation on long established usage in Female Education. From time immemorial, Female Education has been superficial . . . But why, it may be asked, should women's education differ materially from man's? . . . We take it for granted, therefore that the education of both sexes, should be based upon the same model, in its general outlines. Hence we have framed a course of study in the solid branches, which, for thoroughness, has seldom been equalled by any female institution in this or any other country.<sup>19</sup>

The officers of the college claimed to be interested in mental development and practicality, and that a few principles accurately learned were more valuable than thousands of transitory ideas. To obtain a hard nucleus around which ideas may be built and the mind be broadened they make "every effort to induce in (their) pupils, habits of close, accurate, original thought—habits of rigid analysis— of thorough investigation." Visual education was claimed as a strong part of the program whereby textbooks and lectures were supplemented by "using maps, globes, diagrams, black-board-illustrations and experiments." Special importance was given to teaching sound grammar and arithmetic. "We devote great attention to composition. Weekly compositions are required of every pupil in the Collegiate department; frequent Latin and French Compositions from pupils studying those languages." The teachers corrected all the papers as to penmanship, spelling, style and punctuation, and then returned them to the students to be rewritten and copied in a notebook for that purpose.

In general, the Institute's rules were simple and strictly maintained, so as to obviate unnecessary noise and to teach the girls deportment. The students were given moral instruction in frequent prayer and Biblical lessons, and were required to attend church and Sunday-school at one of the town churches. The Bible was also used as part of the curriculum as a means of instructing religious principles as well as the principles of "correct and elegant reading." Despite the great attention to religious matters the college was completely nonsectarian, "No influence is used, either directly or indirectly, to induce any pupil to join our church," the catalogue stated.

---

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*, (1849-1850), 11-12.

The teachers sent quarterly grades to the parents, who were thus enabled to judge the progress being made by their daughters. Indeed great care was taken to keep the advantages of the school constantly before the parents. "We have a good Apparatus, finely-toned musical instruments, and a tolerable collection of minerals and fossils," low charges, healthful vicinity, superior building, low tuition, and a curriculum adequate in both the arts and sciences.<sup>20</sup>

During the first years of Dr. Rivers' administration the college followed the precedent of the Academy by boarding the girls with town families. Founders Hall was reserved exclusively for school purposes. It was felt that the family atmosphere would ease the transition from home to college. At an early date another building was added (on the southeast corner of Founders Hall) to provide a residence for the President and his family, and there were soon many requests from parents that their daughters be housed on the campus under the direct control of the president and faculty. The trustees, concerned that the building was vacant over week-ends, devoted all space not needed for academic purposes to dormitory accommodations for a number of the students.<sup>21</sup>

In 1846 the college graduated its first class, two young ladies, Fanny Malone and Mary Richardson.

After Dr. Hubbard's notable success, he was succeeded by a series of men who lacked administrative ability. Dr. S. W. Moore moved from the faculty to the presidency. His interests and abilities, as they should have been for a former faculty member, were scholarly and, although he conducted the academic program well, "he had not the power, the 'vim' of either of the preceeding gentlemen. Dr. Moore was clever, affable, and accomplished, but did not 'mix much' with people." the most serious complain directed toward him was that he loved his books too much. He failed to make friends for the college who might have added the institution financially. Enrollment declined under Dr. Moore and there was a general lack of interest in the Institute.<sup>22</sup>

In addition to an active interest in the ministry, Dr. Moore was a serious author of both poetry and prose, and one of his books, *Our Church in Sand Bay*, was so popular with the public that over twenty

---

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>21</sup> West, *op. cit.*, 632.

<sup>22</sup> *The Athens Post*, May 1, 1869.

thousand copies were sold of two editions.<sup>23</sup> Dr. Moore left Athens College to take a teaching position at LaGrange College, where, without onerous administrative duties, he could devote his time to writing.<sup>24</sup>

Dr. I. Randolph Findly and Dr. George Naff were the successors of Dr. Moore, respectively, they directed the destiny of the Institute from 1853 to 1858. Both were natives of Virginia and ministers, "with all the graces and ripe culture and experience."<sup>25</sup> Dr. Findley's administration, as described by a trustee, was "a failure complete, he was an uneducated man, and though of some pulpit ability and of fine address, his school broke down."<sup>26</sup> On the contrary, Dr. Naff, a graduate of Emory and Henry College, "succeeded in making a good school." he was well educated and considered one of the best educators in the country. "He was very thorough, energetic, and persistent, but unfortunately, gave way to his temper too much, and in this, was ill adapted to his profession." His devotion to the direction of the school left nothing to be desired, and with the exception of his high temper was a good teacher "in all the elements of an Instructor," and deserving of recognition in his profession.<sup>27</sup>

In 1858 Athens College arrived at the cross-roads, already the black clouds of division and war were beginning to gather over the nation. The intemperate utterances of the lunatic fringe of the North and South were leading inexorably toward war. The trustees were very fortunate in securing a president who directed the Institute successfully through the war years and Reconstruction.

In 1858 Mrs. Jane Hamilton Childs, vice-president of the Huntsville Female College, applied for the opening at Athens advertised by the trustees. A native of Maryland, she had come to North Alabama in 1840, and in 1842 had opened an academy for girls in Huntsville.<sup>28</sup> She came to Athens with sixteen years of teaching and administrative experience. Her eleven year term as president covered the most troubled period of the school's history. A native of Maryland, she had some Unionist sympathy and certainly, she found the people of North Alabama far

<sup>23</sup> McCoy, *op. cit.*, 10-11.

<sup>24</sup> *The Alabama Courier*, May 2, 1895.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>26</sup> *The Athens Post*, May 1, 1869.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>28</sup> *The Democrat* (Huntsville, January 1, 1842; *Southern Advocate* (Huntsville), August 27, 1851.

from unanimous in their support of secession. Athens, itself, was only mildly in favor of the Confederacy. As one Athenian, seated in the Secession Convention of Alabama, wrote regarding the destruction of the Union:

The Convention was organized today by the election of Judge Brooks, a Secessionist, by a majority of eight votes over Jimson, the co-operation candidate . . . We suppose they intend to propose to us to vote for an ordinance of separate State secession connected with a provision to refer back to the people the question for their ratification. The first proposition I will never vote for, the latter I am heartily in favor of.<sup>29</sup>

He wrote to his wife the next day saying:

We have met for the last time under the government of the United States. I have no language to express my feelings when the new flag was unfurled in the Capitol, to see a large crowd of both men and women transported with joy at such an event, without seeming to have one regret for the old stars and stripes, was to me the most soul-sickening spectacle I ever witnessed in all my life.<sup>30</sup> A second representative from Limestone county wrote:

"Well, the *deed is done*." That old banner under which our revolutionary fathers marched has been ruthlessly torn from its moorings and again we are adrift without chart or compass to guide us through the deep which now surrounds. I admit that I feel somewhat like I am willing to say farewell to peace and quiet and plunge into the gulf of black woe which seems to environ us on all sides and were it not for my family I could willingly welcome the worst. Here I sit and from my window I see that nasty little thing flaunting in the breeze which has taken the place of that glorious banner which has been the pride of millions of Americans and the boast of freemen the wide world over.<sup>31</sup>

These statements of representatives of some areas of North Alabama doubtless reflect the opinions of many of their constituents. Regard-

---

<sup>29</sup> Thomas Joyce McClellan to John Beattie McClellan, January 13, 1861, typescript letter in the Athens College Manuscript Collection, hereinafter cited as A.C.M.C.

<sup>30</sup> T. J. McClellan to wife, January 14, 1861, A.C.M.C.

<sup>31</sup> Lawrence Ripley Davis to John Beattie McClellan, January 13, 1861, A.C.M.C.

less these expressions and opinions, once the state had withdrawn, these men made every effort to support the Confederate cause.

Mrs. Childs found her difficult task of administration complicated by the problems of war and invasion. Her contract with the college Trustees was typical of the time. She leased the building for a period of five years, and agreed to pay rent \$300 annually. She was expected to furnish the building, both for boarding and teaching facilities, and to keep it in repair. The profits or losses were to be her own. The idea of a college corporation owning all its equipment was not then the accepted practice among many colleges.

Mrs. Childs, a woman of wealth and refinement, brought her own furnishings to provide luxuries and necessities for the students.<sup>32</sup>

The addition of her possessions to the meagre equipment of Founders Hall, especially parlor furnishings, gave the interior a grace equal to its classic exterior, and made Athens College an institution comparable with the finest in the East.

---

<sup>32</sup> **The Athens Post**, April 10, 1869; "TO THE PUBLIC On and after the 10th of May, will be offered at private sale, the entire family furniture of the Institute, consisting of imperial velvet, Brussels tapistry, and ingrain carpets, with rugs to match: Brussels stair carpet, with silver-plated rods; parlor set of rosewood and damask satin, Grecian lounge, iron frame, upholstered with bouquet velvet; Turkish easy-chair in French reps; brocaded window curtains; lack window curtains, with cornice, brackets and tassels, cotton damask and Turkey red curtains; etejeres, filled with rare shells; large French plate mirror, highly ornamented, present New York price \$300; cane seat, Mahogany and other chairs; large gothic chair; divans, sofas, and sofa-betstead; marble top rosewood centre-table; rosewood chamber sets, marble tops, and complete china sets to match. ORNAMENTS Mantel ornaments; rare vases; imitation ivory pictures, and engravings—"Faith," "Noah's First Sacrifice," "Ruth and Boaz," are among them—besides some fine subjects for the siting-room. In statuary there is a full-sized "Diana," a "Clio" and a large "Newfoundland Dog," all in terra-cotta; in iron, a gray-hound and four urns, two settees, dish-scrapers; stoves and wrought range; solid walnut extension table, set of leaf dining tables; full dinner service in green and solid gold French china; breakfast and tea services in blue and gold; full tea service in silver plate; pearl-handled cutlery, silver blades; solid silver forks and spoons; Bohemian wine bottles; cut glass nickle stands, in silver frames, castors to match; celery stands; canary birds and cages; 200 conch shells; bed-steads in maple, walnut and cherry; curled-hair and shuck mattresses; bedding of every quality; very superior Saxony blankets, and nice Marseilles quilts.

Fine coach harness; wagon harness; Indian-built wagon

#### LARGE FAMILY CARRIAGE

formerly the property of Sir Frederick Bruce; chamois skins, red and yellow; mats of various sizes, manilla and sea-grass. Three cows and calves. MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS One grand rosewood piano, factory price \$800; one Taylor & Farley organ; two square pianos, one of them of the highest finish.

J HAMILTON CHILDS"



Madam Childs, as she was called by everyone, instituted a change in the academic practices of her predecessors by transforming the college to a typical finishing school, with emphases on those courses of study which were aimed at producing gracious women trained in "the traditional conceptions of womanliness of her day more than she stressed scholarship."<sup>33</sup>

In 1862 began the first of a series of Federal invasions of Athens and of counter-occupations by Confederates which lasted throughout the war. Students at the college were often "startled by the stead tread of men and horses" as "up the Huntsville road could be seem the waving banners of an advancing army."<sup>34</sup> Despite the coming of troops from all sides and the sack of the city by Colonel Turchin, the even tenor of the school activities was largely undisturbed. When much of the city was burned the college buildings were saved, in all probability because, as a college for women, the school was in no way used for military purposes.

The buildings and grounds of the Institute were not damaged during the war, although some skirmishes took place quite near and "the students from the upper windows of the building could see the troops advancing and retreating, and one dead man was left in what is known as the Fayetteville road, the northern boundry of the college property."<sup>35</sup>

Athens Female Institute, in common with most educational institutions, found its post-war patronage reduced by the poverty of the region. Many of the affluent families which once had sent their sons and daughters to college were no longer able to afford such luxuries.

It seemed to be, in pre-war as in post-war times, the practice of students to arrive at the college whenever it suited their convenience. The newspapers of the period constantly referred to the enrollment at the opening, predicting that it would increase as the term advanced.

Mollie Johnston of Dardanelle, Arkansas, who arrived at the college late in the term of 1866-1867, excitedly wrote impressions of the school to her mother. "I think Mrs. Childs will be a mother." She described the college as a "building three stories high, (with) two parlors, recep-

---

<sup>33</sup> Moore, *op. cit.*, 12.

<sup>34</sup> *The Alabama Courier*, May 2, 1895.

<sup>35</sup> *The Athens Post*, December 12, 1867.

tion hall, bedroom for company, and the chapel are on the first floor. On the second floor are the music room . . . classroom for the preparatory department opposite, then study-hall in which our class stay are recite. Lastly on this floor are Madam's room and a bed-room occupied by 6 or 8 girls. On the third floor are four bedrooms, and a long hall in front of them. Three are occupied, four girls in each one . . . There are about twenty boarders and some forty pupils altogether. There are four pianos and an organ."

Mollie also told her mother that in no school that she had ever attended was the Bible used so much as at Athens College. She further described the subjects that had no teachers, such as modern languages, drawing and oil-painting. The rules of the school were evidently lax, for the complaint was made that there was too much noise for proper study. The food was good but lack much in variety.<sup>36</sup>

She reported that the Christmas customs at the Institute were very different from those in Arkansas. The girls, at the behest of the local editor, placed bags around the campus on Christmas eve in expectation of their being filled with surprises the next morning. The girls were disappointed upon finding them empty the next morning, and Mollie blamed the editor of the *Post* for making unkept promises and predicted that the custom would not be continued. Mollie had little enthusiasm for the celebration of Christmas by the townspeople who were "firing salutes all over . . . guns, pistols, rockets, fire crackers, and in fact everything that would make a report . . ." which shook the collegiate building.

Christmas dinner was the highlight of the festive occasion, coming in mid-afternoon. It was begun with a glass of black-berry wine, she wrote, and "our plates were helped to pork and turnips, turkey & raisin dressing, mashed up Irish-potatos and corn bread, then clean plates helped to plum pudding with rice sauce." Several dances were held in Athens during the holidays and girls from the college were permitted to attend them.<sup>37</sup>

Mollie roomed alone and she wrote of her accomodations:

My bed stands in the middle of the floor. Madam seems scarce

<sup>36</sup> Mollie Johnston to her Mother, November 10, 1866, typescript letter, A.C.M.C.

<sup>37</sup> *Ibid.*, December 26, 1866.

of bed-cloths, but between hers and those belonging to the girls I think we will have enough to keep us warm through the winter, a shuck mattress with a cotton pad over it, a pair of sheets, blanket, two comforts, snuff colored spread, & a couple of pillows, this completes the furniture of my low poster bedstead on casters; when I want for cover I will go to Madam. Our two rooms have no carpets on the floors, it is so cold to dress on the bare floor. I asked Madam for a piece . . . which she gave me . . . I have it now between the bed & a little table on which is one of those little looking glasses in a frame with a drawer beneath, . . . a small writing desk . . . an iron chair . . . little split-bottomed chair . . . & a little box in which I keep my shoes, this completes the present arrangement of my room.<sup>38</sup>

In the cold winter months the students often ran to the study hall where they dressed by a stove and, as soon as their rooms were cleaned, they would study until breakfast at seven. "We always have a cup of coffee for breakfast . . .," Mollie wrote, "no table cloths, the plates sit on little colored napkins, we have cornbread every meal (very seldom well cooked) light-bread sometimes, warm or cold for a rarity, buckwheat or flour cakes frequently for supper or breakfast with butter when she can get it . . . milk for supper when she can get it. The noon meal is the 1 large meal of the day with pork and turnips, bacon and cabbage, chicken and gravy." One complaint was that Madam Childs and the other teachers had better food than the girls. The students all bathed on Friday night in the study hall where the servants brought all the necessities. Mollie, whose circulation was poor, explained constantly of the school building being cold.<sup>39</sup>

Mollie Johnston's letters were filled with the usual problems of a college student away from home, and they were filled with remarks about poor food, need of money and other subjects of a contemporary sound.

Madam Childs was held up as an example of a superior teacher, and a scholar, with dignity and traditional good manners. Parents were urged to send their daughters to the school even for one term, if they wanted them improved and moulded by good associations and surroundings. Toward the end of her administration she was highly praised by

---

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid.*, December 24, 1866.

<sup>39</sup> *Ibid.*



Rev. William M. Green, minister of the local Methodist Church, for her contributions to the college and town.

Should you visit Athens, . . . you will be refreshed and compensated by a visit to the Institute—the oasis of this desolate region . . . The building, by the energy and care of its superintendent—Mrs. Childs—has been preserved from the hand of the spoiler; it is even in better condition now than before the war. No labor has been spared in beautifying the grounds, blue grass, and flowering shrubs, and forest trees; for some distance in front, is lined with conch shells, “that still sing the sea.” You will be impressed by the great white columns, that seem to attend as sentries. Statuary, and whatever else is fit to adorn, grace the recess. We enter the parlor and sitting-room, and are bewildered with beauty and elegance . . . The chapel is a gem, tastefully, but not extravagantly furnished, the walls are decorated with landscape paintings; a sweet-toned organ assists us in our devotions; and during services so neat and orderly are the students, that you think they are playing tableaux . . . In the study hall are nice cages containing canary birds that enliven the weary hours of labor with their songs . . . The whole building, in neatness, if not in elegance, is in keeping with the apartments that I have mentioned. And to whom do we owe all this? The hand of Mrs. Childs, placed these beauties here; her taste arranged them, and her care preserved them. Waving all other considerations aside, do we not owe her a debt of gratitude for preserving this beautiful seat of learning?<sup>40</sup>

In 1869 the Board of Trustees of the college and Mrs. Childs disagreed over financial matters, as she presented them with an account of several thousand dollars for repairs and furnishings for Founders Hall. They refused to accept any responsibility for these items and, after consulting their original contract, refused to reimburse her. After eleven years as president, Mrs. Childs resigned and sold her furniture at auction.<sup>41</sup>

After her departure there was some concern over the continuation of the college, due largely to the economic and political confusion of the post-war period. Although physically the buildings were in good

---

<sup>40</sup> William M. Green, “Athens Female Institute,” **The Athens Post**, December 12, 1867.

<sup>41</sup> **The Athens Post**, April 25, 1869.

condition, the student body had dwindled until it was a mere fraction of that of 1843.<sup>42</sup> The trustees and community were rightfully uneasy, as the institution was torn by internal strife over the misunderstanding. The entire faculty left with Mrs. Childs. With the local supporters of the college financially prostrate and the college dangerously disrupted, the trustees turned their attention to securing a new president.

In late 1869 the Rev. James M. Wright, of Columbus, Georgia, was elected president. He and his wife had had successful careers in teaching and administration in Georgia, and the trustees were hopeful that the new president would revive the college. They reported,

This is the oldest, and has been one of the most successful of the female schools under the patronage of this conference. It has elegant and spacious buildings, surrounded by the most favorable circumstances and the best of friends. The trustees have recently secured the services of Rev. J. M. Wright, a ripe scholar and experienced educator. Its prospects are very good this session.<sup>43</sup>

Highly recommended, President and Mrs. Wright came to the college with every intention of stimulating renewed public interest and support for the institution. Wright was endorsed by some of the leading men of the Methodist Church, both as to character and educational ability. The public was told that he would teach several of the classes himself, and would be assisted by an able faculty. "We hope, therefore, that the people of Limestone County will sustain their own institution. *It is Southern, Southern teachers.*"<sup>44</sup>

It appears, however, that there must have been apprehension on the part of the public, for they were so repeatedly assured that Wright was a superior teacher, and that the faculty was "the ablest . . . that could be obtained in all the land." The citizens of Athens were urged to support President Wright and aid him in making Athens College the best in the South. The editor of the *Post* promised that a good college would help bring new prosperity to Athens, "and afford a good market to all of our small farmers and gardeners."

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid.*, April 10, 1869.

<sup>43</sup> *The Athens Post*, November 3, September 24, 1869, citing Trustee's Report to the Tennessee Conference.

<sup>44</sup> *Ibid.*, October 8, 1869. President Wright was recommended by Bishop McTyeire, Dr. C. O. Summers, and Dr. Lovick Pierce.

Dr. Wright, aware of the institution's reputation for music instruction, added to his faculty Professor A. de Pelchin, of New Orleans, who was given much publicity by the local newspaper. He was welcomed as a distinct addition to the society of the town and the department of music he established was said to be unsurpassed. Professor de Pelchin also taught ancient and modern languages.<sup>45</sup>

The college continued to be the center of many cultural activities which drew townspeople to the campus. The music department gave frequent concerts, which served as training for the students, entertainment for local citizens, and often as a means of raising money for campus projects.<sup>46</sup>

Dr. Wright had come to Athens College just prior to the transfer of the institution from the Tennessee to the North Alabama Conference, one of the largest but one of the poorest conferences of the Methodist Church, for the vast resources of North Alabama had not yet been developed. In the fall of 1870, at the convocation of the representatives of the new conference at Gadsden, a new interest was displayed in the four colleges which had come into the possession of this group. Athens was one of the most flourishing and the oldest. The trustees of each of the schools reported to the new owners the condition of these properties. The trustees of Athens College praised Dr. Wright and his faculty and urged the conference to aid in "building up an institution that shall alike be an honor to our church, to our very able Faculty and to our enlightened community."<sup>47</sup> Precedence was claimed for Athens College due to its age and its past services.

A special conference committee was established to investigate the condition of the College. It reported that the school was free of debt, that the buildings were suited for their purpose, and that there was in operation in Athens a first class educational institution. The grounds were found to be attractive and to offer space and opportunity for exercise and relaxation, and that mental and physical development were combined with sound religious instruction. The committee gave the

---

<sup>45</sup> *Ibid.*, August 13, 20; September 3; October 8, 1869.

<sup>46</sup> *Ibid.*, November 5, 1869, On one occasion a group of people from Pulaski, Tennessee planned to attend an Institute concert but missed the train, one of the party "Captain Frank McCord, of the Pulaski **Citizen**, was so anxious to attend that he ran three miles after the train, but was unable to overtake it."

<sup>47</sup> R. E. Naylor, *A Brief History of Athens College* (unpublished M.A. thesis, Vanderbilt University, 1937), 58, citing the **Journal of the North Alabama Conference** (November 10, 1870, 22).

college a vote of confidence and suggested that the conference use its influence to increase the number of students attending.<sup>48</sup> The report was adopted and a conference vote of support was registered for the college. Delighted over the favorable report, the editor of the *Athens Post* pointed out that the enrollment had increased, and that signs indicated that the number of students would pass one hundred for the session 1870-1871.<sup>49</sup>

At the twenty-seventh annual commencement, Athens College was said to be an institution of which the people "have cause to be justly proud." The citizens of Athens were urged to come forward and rally to the support of the institution and thus encourage the faculty and the administration "to make it one of the finest institutions in our land, and one to which those going out in the world, from its walls, may say in great pride, 'She is my Alma Mater'."<sup>50</sup> The local editor constantly entreated the people of Limestone county and North Alabama to patronize the college. The moderate charges for instruction, he pointed out, were about on a par with similar schools in the region.<sup>51</sup>

Under the sponsorship of the new conference the college continued to grow and expand. With the change in ownership the name of the school was no longer suitable, and the name Athens Female College began to appear with greater regularity. The official change in name came soon after the transfer of the property, and in the legislative session of 1871-1872 the original charter was amended to read "Athens Female Institute."<sup>52</sup>

The college authorities were complimented on the sound educational program. It was said, "no brighter ornaments will adorn female circles, among those who have acquired mental culture in drinking deep at the "Pierian spring" than the young ladies sent forth from this time honored institution."<sup>53</sup>

In 1872 the president reported to the conference that the school continued to operate prosperously, and that the enrollment for the col-

<sup>48</sup> *Ibid.*, 28-29.

<sup>49</sup> The *Athens Post*, January 7, 1870.

<sup>50</sup> *Ibid.*, June 17, 1870.

<sup>51</sup> *Ibid.*, August 19; September 30, 1870, Preparatory classes for five months, \$15.00; Preparatory, \$20.00; Collegiate, \$25.00; Room and Board \$160.00, the latter in 1843 had been \$80.00.

<sup>52</sup> *Acts of Alabama*, 1871-1872, 332.

<sup>53</sup> The *Athens Post*, March 7, 1873.

lege courses was eighty-five. The graduation exercises of the college followed the same pattern of earlier years. The commencement of 1871 included public examination of the various classes and, invariably, a program of the junior class which included the reading of essays. The Senior class, which appeared last, then read their theses before the audience. The program of this year included, during the three day exercises, a sermon by W. H. Anderson of Florence Wesleyan University and the commencement address by William P. Harrison of Nashville, Tennessee.<sup>54</sup>

John A. Thompson, of the conference visiting committee, was very impressed by the ceremonies at the college. He commended the president and faculty for the fine program, and found the methods of teaching the young most satisfactory. The collegiate department was applauded for the mental training revealed by the girls during the examinations.<sup>55</sup> The music department continued to be one of the strongest divisions of the college and the large classes in this area were reflected by the large number of musical events presented in Founders Hall.<sup>56</sup> The visiting committee was especially pleased by the employment of only native teachers for the faculty "instead of rude, clownish foreigners."<sup>57</sup>

In the spring of 1873 it was announced that Dr. Wright had resigned the presidency of the college to accept a similar position in Tennessee. He left Athens in June, 1873, with the best wishes of the trustees, the conference, and the community.<sup>58</sup> Presiding over the commencement he "gave the young ladies some good and sound advice for their future guidance in a well written and touching address, and as is usual with him, presented each with a Bible after which diplomas were presented." The last official act was completed with the awarding of degrees to five young ladies.<sup>59</sup>

<sup>54</sup> *Ibid.*, June 9, 1871.

<sup>55</sup> *Alabama Christian Advocate*, August 10, 1872.

<sup>56</sup> *The Athens Post*, January 6, 1871, As was usual, the college presented a special musical program every Christmas to which the public was invited. Professor de Pelchin not only prepared an interesting program, during his tenure, but also decorated a Christmas tree and the parlor, in a festive spirit, "for the sole purpose of greeting them with a happy Christmas." Professor de Pelchin, a native of Louisiana, performed many services for the college, not the least of which was composing the "Institute March," a copy of which has been preserved (A.C.M.C.).

<sup>57</sup> *Alabama Christian Advocate*, July 5, 1873.

<sup>58</sup> *The Athens Post*, May 9, 1873.

<sup>59</sup> *Ibid.*, June 13, 1873.

Considering the troubled times, Dr. Wright had enjoyed a fairly prosperous term at the college. Although the school had not recovered its pre-war position, it had surpassed the last years of Mrs. Childs' administration. Conditions, of course, had improved in the surrounding country.

Thus the institution had successfully survived fifty years of trial and error, the experiment had gone through almost every vicissitude possible: war, economic disaster, political disturbance, and good and bad administrators. The value of higher education for women was proved a success by Athens College, and in 1873 it was the oldest continuously operating educational institution in Alabama. Never once since 1822 had the doors of the school been closed.



## MORE ABOUT MORDACAI

By PETER A. BRANNON

In August, 1923, I wrote to James Johnson, an aged gentleman who had formerly served as a member of the Legislature from Tallapoosa County, and asked him if he would tell me some of his recollections of Mordacai, an old early settler at the village of Dudleyville. Two days later I received a letter from him which he had dictated to his daughter and which reads:

Dadeville Ala

Aug-6th, 23

I received your letter yesterday and am glad to give all the information I can regarding Mr. Abraham Mordecai who moved to Dudleyville when I was a small boy. He was then an old jew man unable to work so my grandfather James Moore built for him a log house and provided him with wholesome food as long as he lived and buried him between two hickory trees at the Dudleyville cemetery. He was a good man although he did not connect himself with any church but many times as I walked behind him I could hear him praying aloud. Several years before his death he had his coffin made by a Mr. Clayton and kept it in his home. His house is not standing and there is no marker on his grave.

James Johnson

per daughter.

You will notice that Mr. Johnson refers to "my grandfather James Moore." This James Moore is none other than the original settler at Montgomery Bluff. Mr. Klinck and other writers including Col. Pickett have referred to Mr. Arthur Moore some times and some times Mr. James Moore and some times just Mr. Moore, who had a cabin on the river bank about the end of Coosa Street.

An old clipping which comes from a personal scrapbook bought together by me at least forty years ago, I have lifted a contribution made by Col. Albert J. Pickett to the *Flag and Advertiser*, and dated October 4, 1847. It is:

## A SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF "OLD MORDACAI"

Living at Dudleyville, Tallapoosa County, Ala.

He settled in Montgomery County in 1789. He was the first native born citizen of the United States who lived here—and the first cultivator of Cotton in the State of Alabama, &c. &c.

In the outskirts of Dudleyville, in the county of Tallapoosa, at the foot of a hill, are three solitary Indian huts. In one of these mouldering monuments of the red race, I found a man of another age. It was eight o'clock in the morning. He was busily engaged in preparing his homely meal. With a benignant smile he invited me to a seat. He lived entirely alone. Beside his bed was a coffin, made for him by directions several years ago. Upon this singular household appendage reposed an old Bible, from the pages of which he was accustomed to derive consolation, and the assurance of eternal life hereafter. Several old trunks, two or three chairs and a table, together with numerous bottles (sic) suspended by strings around the walls, completed the entire furniture of the cabin. The old man was of low statue (sic), round and compactly built, his limbs and body being admirably knit together. While his head bore the emblems of age as to colour, it was nevertheless covered with a profusion of hair. His forehead was well formed, his mouth large and expressive, his eyes of a deep hazel hue, which ever and anon would sparkle like diamonds, at the mention of old occurrences. Before partaking of his meal, now hastily prepared, he stood beside the table and in the most devout manner, repeated a feeling grace, blessing his maker for the long preservation of his life, and the comforts then spread before him. Supplied by the kind citizens of Dudleyville with the necessaries of life, this man of years and former enterprise, lives upon the lands of an old Indian countryman, whom he has known for the last sixty years. The solitude of the place, the rude and comfortless cabin in which he dwells from choice, the coffin upon the floor, the dress and appearance of the ancient inmate, his piety and resignation to immediate death, all were calculated to impress the visitor with singular emotions.

This venerable personage is familiarly known in that region, as "Old Mordacai." While drawing upon a memory post retentive of early incidents in Alabama, some items of his own life were casually elicited during the discourse. He was born in Pennsylvania the 24th October, 1755. His father was a Jew and his Mother was of German blood. Although now ninety two years of age, his mind is unimpaired and he



walks without difficulty to the village. He has pursued a variety of occupations during a long life, the first was that of a butcher. He served three years in the ranks of the American army during the Revolution, and was present at most of the engagements in Delaware and New Jersey. In 1783 he settled among the Cusseta Indians, at a place called Buzzard Roost on Flint River, in the present State of Georgia; and there became a trader in Indian merchandise. About this time James Seagrove, was appointed Indian Agent, and resided at St. Mary's. Unlike his worthy successor Col. Hawkins, Seagrove, never visited the Nation in Alabama, but transacted his business through agents. Mordacai, being a man of agreeable manners, of adventurous spirit, bold and active, was often selected to bear Talks to the distant Tribes. He was generally accompanied by Timothy Barnard, whose Father had been a Colonel in the British service. The names of Barnard and Mordacai, are frequently to be met with in the American State Papers, (Indian Affairs,) in reference to these very expeditions. On one occasion, sixty years ago, Mordacai penetrated to the heart of the Chickasaw Nation, on a mission of peace, and passed by the Falls of the Black Warrior, where no Indians lived at that time.\* During this period the Creek Indians were accustomed to commit depredations, upon the settlers in the present State of Kentucky, and bring back to their towns, many unfortunate captives. The India Agent at St. Mary's, employed Mordacai to visit the Chiefs and arrange for their ransom. His knowledge of the Indian character, connected with a remarkable adroitness, contributed to the success of such applications, and enabled him to relieve from wretchedness and misery, many women and children, who ceased to hope for relief.

We now rapidly approach that part of Mordacai's life, connected with the soil embraced in Montgomery county. In 1789, on a hill precisely where Mrs. Burch's house now stands on the Line Creek road, this man established himself as a Trader among the Cuwalla Indians, who then lived two miles distant, west of the mouth of Line Creek; some of this tribe also lived in the prairies adjoining, on the other side of his store. His buildings were erected by Spanish deserters, and were built in the Spanish style, of mortar and frame work, but were destroyed in 1812. For twenty years he carried on an extensive trade, dealing in skins and furs, pink root and other medicinal barks. These he conveyed to Augusta and Pensacola on pack horses, and to New Orleans and Mobile, in

---

\* Tuscaloosa was never an Indian town until about 1800. When the Tuscabatche Chiefs established there a small town, as a resting place, in their visits to the Chickasaw Nation.

large canoes, with no companions but the savages who were employed to assist him. On one occasion he sold to Gov. Durfort (sic) of New Orleans, thirty gallons (sic) of oil, which the Indian women extracted from the hickory nut, and also cakes made of the same. The latter was esteemed by the Spaniards, as a great delicacy, when served up with condiments. The oil was obtained by boiling the broken hickory nuts in pots of water, and skimming the oil as it floated on top. He acquired a thorough knowledge of the Spanish tongue in the course of his traffic, while the Indian language had almost become his mother tongue. I have intimated that Mordacai was the first native born citizen of the United States, who ever settled in Montgomery county. It is so, but there was however one before him of English birth, who lived hard by. During the Revolutionary war, an English soldier deserted from the British ranks, and fled with his wife to the Creek Nation. He died shortly afterward at Careta (sic) (Cusseta), where Columbus is now. The woman being of a bold and romantic spirit, penetrated still farther among the red people, and finally settled upon a creek well known to us all, and which still bears her name. "Old Milly" and Mordacai lived many years close neighbors in this savage land. She married an Indian and owned several slaves, many horses and cattle.

Mordacai in these times often visited our own town, but then inhabited by a different and perhaps more innocent population. It was located at old Alabama town, and the name was Aconschauta (sic) meaning *Red ground*. Persons acquainted with this spot are aware that the soil is very red. In the "times that tried men's souls," Alabama was in the occupancy of the Royalists. Their agent, a British officer named Tate, lived in the *Red ground town* and was successful in his exertions in getting the Indians to war upon the Americans. Aconschauta (sic) contained, in Mordacai's time, four hundred hunters, and the culture of corn was carried on in the Bend opposite.

In 1804, Mordacai, living at Pole Cat Springs, conferred with Col. Hawkins upon the propriety of establishing a Gin, and introducing the culture of cotton. He desired to place it at his store. Hawkins entered warmly into the project, for that indefatigable and honest Agent was extremely desirous to bring the Indians to a proper system of Agriculture, and to teach them the arts of civilization. But, however, he objected to the location for Mordacai's own good, and advised the erection of the Gin House at Weatherford's race track (sic) on a beautiful Bluff, just below the junction of the Coosa and Tallapoosa. Here, in Loftin's plantation, within three hundred yards of Dr. Rieves' (Rives) Gin

House, in Montgomery county, the first Gin House in the State of Alabama, was built at great expense, in the year 1804 by this same Mordacai. Col. Hawkin's was of opinion that it was a proper situation, for the Indian women could bring their cotton down either river in canoes and sell it here. He procured the consent of the Hickory Ground Indians, for its erection. Mordacai commenced operations, and the first year sold his cotton in New Orleans, at thirty three cents per pound.

In 1805, two of Mordacai's horses strolled into the low grounds, opposite Coosawda, and eat some young corn, belonging to the Indians of that town. Towerculla (sic), (otherwise called Capt. Isaacs,) Chief of Coosawda, had never liked the residence of this white man so near him. He now availed himself of this excuse to drive him off. Selecting fifteen of his warriors, each with many long hickory poles, he surrounded the house of the innovator. Mordacai offered to pay any price for the trespass of his horses, but Towerculla thirsted for his blood. He presently stuck him a blow. Mordacai being a man of prodigious strength, clasped him around the waist and sought to throw him over the bluff. But the other Indians soon felled him to the earth. They now, man to man, threshed him with their merciless poles until he became insensible to feeling, and as they supposed was dead. Cutting off his left ear, they left him to the care of his Indian wife, by whose hands he was nursed, a miserable sufferer, for several months. I have lately seen his close cropt ear and the immense knots raised upon his body, and it is wonderful that he recovered. Some time after this, the Indians burned up his Gin House with all his cotton, and destroyed a fine Boat, for which he paid \$400 in New Orleans. He was now a ruined man, wandering about the Nation until the war of 1813 commenced, when he fled to Georgia, joined Gen. Floyd, and was in the engagements of Autossee and Caleeba (sic). In 1814, when Gen. Jackson assigned the Indians their future limits, Mordacai returned with his Indian family to the Creek Nation, where he has lived ever since, refusing to emigrate with his children to Arkansas in 1836.

These lines have been penned, supposing that the people of Montgomery County would like to know who first lived in their county, after the Spanish and French dominion had terminated, and who was the first to grow cotton in Alabama, and to gin it. That man was Charley

(sic) Mordacai, now breathing out a few more days of his existence, in a lonely hut in Dudleyville.

Respectfully,

A J Pickett.

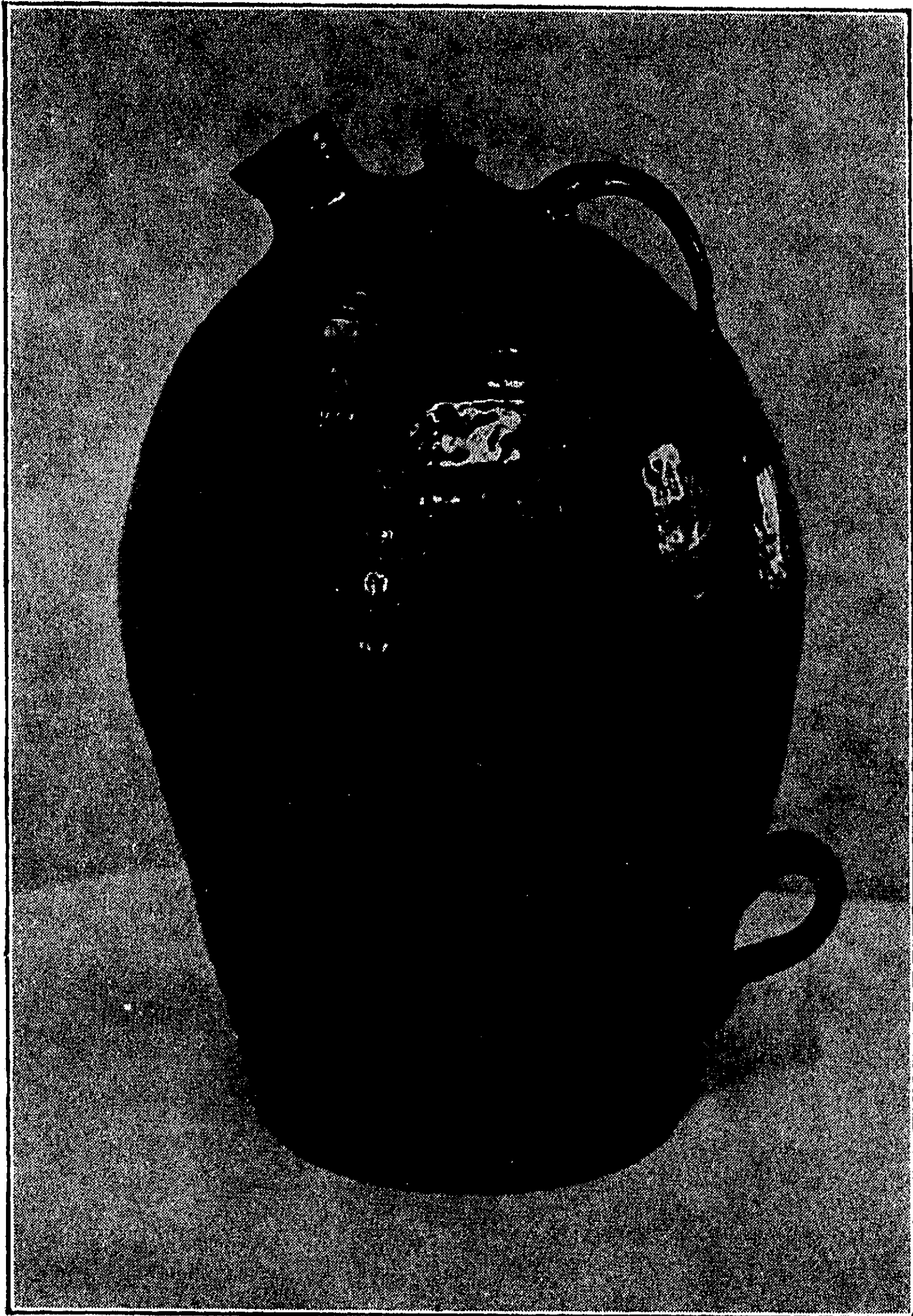
Robinson, October, 4th 1847.

You will note that Col. Pickett says his coffin was beside his bed. Judge Johnson says he remembers the coffin which was made for him by a local carpenter. Apparently, from Mr. Johnson's references he buried the old fellow between the two hickory nut trees. His grave is there today, and I have seen it often. It is now marked and it is indicated that the Tohopeka Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution sponsored that marker. Mr. Harry Herzfeld and myself had long advocated it and eventually our dreams were realized for we got the marker placed there. The cemetery is not great distance from the burial place of Lemuel P. Montgomery, for whom the County of Montgomery was named and it is quite fitting that it should be so. Both Mordacai and Montgomery saw service at Horseshoe Bend and today Horseshoe Bend is much in the life story of the period—even if the last Congress did not appropriate any money to start the promotion of the National Park there.

When Col. Pickett wrote about him, in 1847, he was 92 years old and there are other references to show that Mordacai lived at least two or three years longer for he was living in 1850. Col Pickett died in 1851.

Mordacai's gin house site was actually opposite the present town of Coosada, in Montgomery County and Mrs. Burch's house referred to by the Colonel was at what we know today as Waugh, a village on the route to Tuskegee, so these locations are intimately tied into the life of "the old Jew" as many people knew him and Klink's story, and Col. Pickett's story, and Gen. Woodward's story of this early settler and his neighbor, Milly, are all the more intimately woven into pioneer days of Montgomery. Col. Pickett's contribution to the paper as of 1847, was during the climaxing months of his gathering of material for his history of Alabama and it was not long after this period before he sent his copy to Charleston where the first edition of this celebrated volume was turned out.





### MORDECAI'S RUM JUG

This earthenware jug, the only known one of this shape in the world, was owned by Abraham Mordecai at the time of his death and was claimed by a member of Judge Johnson's family. It came into the possession of the author of this story about 1920. Extensive correspondence has been carried on with most of the world's museums and they have no reference to one like it.



## ROBERT ALEXANDER SMITH

A Southern Son<sup>1</sup>

By WILLIAM ROBERT STEVENSON

(Dr. Stevenson was for some months Chief Historian for Hq Twelfth Air Force in the European Theater. He is a graduate of Indiana University and at the time of the preparation of this material was connected with Hq MOAMA, U. S. Air Force, Mobile. *Editor.*)

Robert Alexander Smith, born 2 June 1825 in Blacks Bend, Wilcox County, Alabama, was the sixth of the eight children of Archibald "K"<sup>2</sup> Smith and Jeannette or Janet Gordon who with several brothers and sisters moved to Alabama from the Cape Fear area, Cumberland, now Hoke County, North Carolina in 1819. The Smith family traces its origins to one John Smith from Cantyre, Scotland who with his wife Margaret Gilchrist and two children, Malcolm and Jeannette, immigrated to the American colonies with the first Highland group approximately 1729-1734. Margaret did not live to settle in the new world, however, for she passed away on the hundred twenty mile journey overland from the mouth of the Cape Fear River to the high banks of the Cape Fear near the mouth of the Lower Little River.

During the American Revolution the members of the Smith family actively participated both as patriots and as loyalists to the crown. Daniel, Robert Alexander's paternal grandfather, having married into the staunchly loyalist McKay family, took no active part in the struggle, but was considered a loyalist nevertheless.

Jeannette Gordon, Archibald's wife, was also of Scotch decent. In all probability her ancestor was William Gordon who came to the colonies about 1747, settling first in Cumberland County and then in Richmond County, North Carolina, where Archibald "K" met Jeannette.

<sup>1</sup> The information and letters used in the preparation of this article were made available by the grand-children of Robert Alexander, but, having an interest only in further illuminating the events and occurrences of this dark era in the history of our country and desiring no notoriety, they wish to remain anonymous. In true humility, the author wishes to extend his sincere thanks to them and to his associate, Robert Alexander III, the son of Robert A. Smith of Pine Apple, Wilcox County, Alabama, and great grandson of the author of the letters, who generously gave of his knowledge and time.

<sup>2</sup> Originally the middle name was McKay (pronounced McCoy), but the letter "K" was substituted for the name while the family was still living in Cumberland County, North Carolina.

Archibald "K" and his wife Jeannette moved to Alabama and settled in Blacks Bend, Wilcox County in the year 1819. During the succeeding eleven years six of Archibald's sisters and brothers followed him; some settled in Wilcox County, some in Coosa County, and some in other locals. One brother, Lauchlin K., moved on to Jackson Parish, Louisiana, where he died in 1861. Six years after settling in Wilcox County a son, Robert Alexander, was born to Archibald "K" and Jeannette.

Robert Alexander grew up in Blacks Bend and on 1 May 1861 he married Eliza Spencer Davis. Eliza was the daughter of John Parker Davis and his second wife Nancy Gerald Tomilson. Two children were born of this union: a daughter, Mary Jeannette, was born on 20 April 1862 and a son, Robert Alexander, was born on 28 December 1863. His father, at the time with Martin's Brigade in Eastern Tennessee, never saw his son; he died in action on 17 January 1864. This fact assisted in bringing about an act unique this late in the war between the states; Robert Alexander's body was returned to his home where it was interred on 20 March 1864.

Robert Alexander did not enter the Confederate Army until 23 August 1863 because he had been deferred by the Confederate Government to run the plantation. Before he entered the army, Daniel, his brother, had represented the Smith family in the Confederate bid for Independence. Although his entrance into the conflict was late, Smith was none the less sincerely patriotic. But Smith was no fanatic and he was genuinely displeased with much which confronted him in the army. Daydreaming of his reunion with Eliza, his wife, after the war should be over, Smith writes on 6 September 1863 "it will be pleasant to think in after life that I took part in battling for the freedom of our Country. How different will be my feelings from those who are staying at home and Shirking from duty."

But by 8 October of the same year unpleasantries had begun to darken these daydreams. On that occasion he writes:

It would surprise you to see how our own Soldiers act towards the Citizens. They take everything, they go into his yard take his chickens, hogs potatoes, and everything else and do not think of ever offering pay. \* \* \* Our regimental and Company officers are not near as strict as they Should be about Such things.

By mid-December he had begun to doubt the future, for on the 12th



of that month he writes "my dear I hope that we will yet gain our Independence, and all things will be well with us yet . . .," but being a practical man he adds ". . . though if I were at home I believe I would put what money I had on hand in land, as the Soldiers are generally in favor of repudiating the debts of the Confederate States in the event we do gain our independence."

Smith's letters were written during a period of great trial and tribulation. Conditions in the South generally were deteriorating very rapidly this fall and winter of 1863. He himself notes in his letter of 28 September of that year that "Old soldiers Say they never saw harder times." Later, in his letter of 8 December, he reports "the soldiers are getting tired of the war and want it settled some way they do not care much how, most all think we are whipped." Robert, however, other than being greatly discommoded by being separated from his wife, seems not to have been greatly affected by these events and seems to be far more concerned with affairs at home. In this light his letters permit a soul searching glance of the inner man.

Robert Alexander Smith was a well educated, intelligent man and a possessor of a keen sense of observation. Not only did he write in considerable detail of the military camps, marches and battles in which he took part, but he also contrasts the way of life, the economics, and countryside of the places he visits with his own Wilcox County, Alabama. In his first letter after leaving home we find him comparing the prices of merchandise in Selma with those at home in Camden, and reports, "I find everything higher here than I expected . . . ." He also writes that he ". . . paid 8\$<sup>3</sup> in Selma for one days Board . . . ." Later in the same letter he states that a meal of ". . . 3 Biscuit & a cup of Wheat Coffee . . ." cost a dollar and a half.

Just a month before he was lost in action, and written during and just before heavy engagements,<sup>4</sup> Smith's letter resembles the financial page. On that occasion, 12 December 1863, he writes "everything is very high up here Corn is selling at 5\$ pr Bushel Pork 1.25 pr lb Irish pota-

---

<sup>3</sup> It is interesting to note that Smith uses the dollar sign as is common with the Pound Sterling symbol—after the amount, but he also places it before the amount as we do today.

<sup>4</sup> On 23 December he wrote that he had been "in a fight at Russelville on the 12th of this month . . .," the very day he had written quoting the prices of goods locally. Again on 9 January 1864 he wrote that he had again been in conflict on 27 December. At that time he reported that more men /had been/ engaged than was in any Cavalry fight Since the war began . . ."

toes 12\$ pr Bushel Jeans 10\$pr yd Leather 8\$ pr lb and everything else in proportion."

Another of his many observations shows Smith as an aggressive and progressive man. In his letter of 9 October he writes "I have eaten some syrup made of the Chinese Sugar Cane as good as any I ever saw of the other . . . ." Being highly satisfied with this new product and with an eye to the future, Smith cautions his wife, Eliza, ". . . if you can engage some seed to plant next spring/,/ do so, a great deal of it is planted up here."

Smith's letters also permit a very clear and concise evaluation of his character. They show him to have been kind, considerate, morally righteous, and religious and patriotic, but not fanatically so.

Throughout his letters, Smith shows a very genuine concern for the health and welfare of others, while at the same time makes light of or passes off his own hardships and privations. For his wife, who was some five months pregnant when he left for the war, Smith shows a deep, sincere love. Before leaving home, Smith promised to write to his wife Eliza as often as possible. It is not surprising then to find him promising to ". . . write once a week if I can . . ." in his very first letter home. In the same letter he cautions Eliza to ". . . be certain to do the Same." In spite of the disrupted and most of the time non-existent postal service, Smith nearly made good his promise, for he wrote her eleven letters during the near five months he served in the Confederate Army.

This war-enforced separation from Eliza and Jeannette, his infant daughter, was a genuine hardship. After only a week's separation, he writes ". . . ever week is a month to me . . ." The rigors of war, bad food, bad water and sickness, were insignificant to his hardship. He writes on 6 September 1863:

It is very dry up here I never Knew what dust was untill Now. I have Suffered very much from it. The Water has disagreed with me I have been unwell for a day or two but I am better today. I dont dread anything but Sickness. The hardships that I under go are nothing Compared to the loss of the Company of a dear Wife and baby. The dearest things on earth to me.

And on the 22d of the same month he writes "I have seen the hardest times Soldiers ever seen, but it agrees with me finely."

Eliza's condition was constantly on his mind. After hearing from home, he writes on 9 October:

. . . I am truly Sorry to hear that you were in pain at at times  
. . . My Dear you must bear up under afflictions with patience, do try and be cheerful, do not Stay too closely confined at home, I am afraid you are working too hard you know I cautioned you against that before I left you, do think of it . . . do not give yourself too much uneasiness about me I am getting along much better than I expected I would, although I see hard times, they are not worse than I expected . . .

Later in the same letter he writes "My dear the thought of your afflictions weighs on my mind heavier than anything else if you can only keep your health and pass through this winter Safe all will be well . . . ." Again on 12 December he writes:

My Dear do be patient and try and take things easy as you can we must Content our selves with being separated for the present, Oh how glad I would be if I could be with you to wait on you in your affliction but it is willed otherwise, My dear there is not a night that I lie down but I offer up a prayer for you and that Darling . . .

Eleven days later we find him writing ". . . with all the hardships which are many I could under go better, could I but hear from you . . . I under go every thing better than you have any idea that I could. I could under go anything for the Sake of peace and the thought of seeing you again . . . ." Five days after Smith wrote these words, Eliza was delivered of a son whom she named Robert Alexander after his father. Smith never saw his son.

Smith's concern for Jim, his manservant, was just as sincere as that for his wife. In his first letter home we find him writing "the weather being very warm, I thought it best to let Jim ride my horse." The sincerity of this concern cannot be questioned for on 22 September he writes "I have not seen Jim in 2 weeks he has chill and fever . . . ." Six days later he reports that he had journied some 30 miles to Tunnel Hill, Georgia, to send Jim home ". . . but dont Know that he will be able to reach home." He also adds that if he were unable ". . . to get him on the cars . . . , " this was difficult to do for there were so many wounded soldiers, he would leave him in the hospital there at Tunnel Hill. A Post

Scriptum to the next letter, 9 October, indicates Jim did depart for Smith cautions his wife "let me know if Jim gets home . . . ." Evidently Jim died before arriving home and Eliza so informed her husband, but forgot to say where, for on 18 November he reminds her "you did not say where Jim died at . . . ."

Although overburdened with worry for Eliza and Jim, Smith still had time to think of others. It is not strange then to find him asking Eliza in his letter of 28 September to send him ". . . that big pair of Socks . . . for big Thompson . . . ." He doesn't remember to ask for a pair for himself until 9 October. In this same letter we also find him asking Eliza to "spin & weave plenty of Clothing for the Negroes . . . ." Again on 23 December he writes ". . . do treat our Negroes well . . . ."

Smith displays still another facet of his kind, generous nature on 8 December. In his letter of that date he writes "the Boys in my mess told me that you sent me some Potatoes and Sweet Cakes and having no way of sending them to me they eat them up, I was glad that they happened to be at the Waggon and got them . . . ."

A study of his letters reveals yet another side of Smith's character, a deep and profound religious faith. Being so devout, it seems odd that he waited so long to enter the church. As is noted on his headstone, Smith did not enter the church until 23 August 1863, the day he entered the Confederate Army. He was at that time 38 years of age. That he was deeply religious, however, is unquestionable for in his letter of 6 September 1863 he writes "my dear every thing looks /da/rk now, but let us put our trust in the Lord and hope for the best."

In the same letter, since it was important to him, he relates that a young man by the name of Nicholson, a nephew of the Rev. John Wilmer, an Episcopalian and a northerner, had been appointed Chaplain and ordered to preach. It appears to be with some surprise that he adds "he defended the institution of Slavery on bible Grounds, that it was so intended by God, and it would be Certain to be firmly established in this Country . . . ." Later on 9 October dreaming of the reunion with his wife and daughter he writes "Oh that happy happy day, let us put our trust in the Lord and hope for it." Later in this same letter and again in his letter of 12 December Smith reveals most vividly the true depth and profoundness of his piety. On these occasions he writes:

There is a great deal of Wickedness in Camps, Cursing Swear-

ing Cardplaying &c a continual ring in your Ears all the time, which annoys me very much, it is a poor place for a man of any Morals at all. I have come here with a strong determination to hold out faithful with the help of the Lord I will try and not fall into any bad habits.

and on the latter date he writes "I have great faith in prayer, let us so live if we never meet on Earth again that we may meet in that world to come when parting will be no more . . . ."

It was fitting that the body of this unselfish and gentle son of Wilcox be interred in the very soil from whence he sprang, where his children and children's children could see these words depicting the inner man.<sup>5</sup>

Being a man of more than ordinary intelligence, possessing noble and generous traits he was respected by all who knew him.

This then was the man who, between 30 August 1863 and 9 January 1864, a period when he as well as the south in general were suffering the severest privations and the hardest military reverses, wrote the following letters.

Near Alexandria Calhoun Co. Ala

August 30/63

Dear Eliza

It is a week this morning Since I left home, I have undertaken to fulfill my promise of writing you a few lines informing you of my whereabouts &c. I have been well and in as good Spirits as could be expected under the circumstances. The weather being very warm, I thought it was best to let Jim<sup>6</sup> ride my horse. So I took the Steam Boat at Bridgeport. I got to Selma Monday Morning, where I lay over 24 hours waiting for my horse to come up. I regretted very much that I could not get my likeness taken but there was not an Ambrotypeish in town. The Iron Works did not want any Iron but Said it Could be Sold in Montgomery

---

<sup>5</sup> Epitath written by Dr. Anson West, author of History of Methodism in Alabama.

<sup>6</sup> Robert Alexander's colored manservant.



at 7½ cts per lb. Please tell your Father<sup>7</sup> about it. I did not have a chance of seeing Dr. Ervin. I find everything higher here than I expected, Factory thread is worth the Same that it was in Camden, Send there and get what you want. The Government has all the flour here in reach of me impressed. I paid 8\$ in Selma for one days Board Our horses came up on Tuesday Morning I let Jim go on with the Company. I with Capt. Farish and Several others took the Cars for Blue Mountain, at which place we arrived in the Evening, we did not get any dinner and Several of the boys could not get any Supper nor breakfast untill they got out to Camps about 10 miles off.

I got by hard persuading 3 Buiscuit & a cup of Wheat Coffee for supper by paying 1.50. I was fortunate enough to get a ride to Camp free of Charge. Some of the Boys paid 2.00 Some had to walk. I found all the Boys well, I find Major Robins<sup>8</sup> the Same Clever Gentleman I have ever found him to be. The day I arrived an order was received for 300 men from the Brigade to leave the next morning. They left in the direction of Chattanooga under command of Leut. Col. Malden, Capt. Farish & ten men were sent from our Company. When just above Gadsden about 30 miles from here one of our men from this Regmt. was shot in the thigh by a bush whacker, he was sent back to the hospital today. The whole Command left here yesterday for Bridgeport on the Tennessee River.

All who were not able to bear arms or who had lame horses as well as we recruits who had no horses were left at the Camps. We are Camped in a very pleasant place the best springs I ever saw, I did my first Service last night. I was marched about 7 miles from our old Camp over to another road where we kept guard all night watching for deserters from the Army if any, we did not take up any, we have various reports about Bragg and his main Army, it is understood now that he is Crossing the Tennessee River. After being surprised at Chattanooga by the Yankees, It is thought that there will be a fight before long.

This Camp is under Command of Lie/ut/ Pegues of our company, where he will rema/in/ untill all absentees return. Our Horses have not come up yet, we may be sent on as soon as they get here.

---

<sup>7</sup> John Parker Davis

<sup>8</sup> In all probability Robert Alexander's relative by marriage for his Uncle Alexander had married as his third wife a Miss Mary J Robins. Family resided in Lower Peachtree, Alabama.



I concluded after talking with Daniel<sup>9</sup> that I had better carry some more money he let me have 100\$ please let him have it he let me have his Blanket for my little one, which I find will be useful to me. Tell Daniel that Thompson was 7 days behind time in getting back and was taken up by the guard, and was put in the Guard House by Gen. Martin and made to walk from 10 untill 3 every day in the hot sun without water to drink for 7 days. I am very Sorry for him, the poor private Soldier has a hard time of it, though I find it about as I expected.

My dear Eliza I do not know where I may write from again, if I should remain here a week I will write before I leave here, I will write once a week if I can you must be certain to do the same. I would be glad to hear from you now; every week is a month to me; be certain to write.

You can direct your letter to Alexandria Calhoun Co. Ala.

Co. D. 3 Ala. Cav. Martin's Brigade

If I am gone from here when your letter arrives it will be forwarded on to the Army, there will be a man leaving Camden in a few days by the name of Hickox Send your letter by him, Kiss that dear little one<sup>10</sup> for me. I have written this in the woods try and make it out

God bless you

Robt. A. Smith

La Fayette Walker Co. Georgia

Sept 6th 1863

My Dear Eliza

I was at Alexandria when I wrote you last, waiting for our horses to Come up, they Came up on Tuesday last we rested them one day and then Started for this place Riding over 30 Miles a day, last Night we stopped at Summerville, about 11 oclock news came that the Yankees were in about 4 Miles of us. We packed up and left in double quick riding the balance of the night. We arrived at this place this Morning where we found our Command everything is in a bustle, Seven of our

<sup>9</sup> His older Brother.

<sup>10</sup> His infant daughter Mary Jeannette

recruits were ordered on picket about 10 Miles off without having time to feed their horses. The Yankees are a short distance off and a fight is expected Soon, Somewhere near here, Gen. Bragg is still at Chattanooga

We carried up 41 horses that were pressed by the Government in Talladiga and other Counties down there, I have had a rough time of it I do not know how we could have done with out the provisions I brought from home. the Meal we get is not Sifted and cooked rough you know it is hard fare we get nothing but Green Corn for our horses It is a pretty Country that we have travelled through. Some Spendid residences with the best Springs in the world I reckon The people are very uneasy about the Yankees Some are packing up and leaving.

One old Lady on hearing us pass her house last night Screamed for her Son to get up and run. that the Yankees were Coming. We met an old man last night about one oclock, who had been to haul his Salt off to hide it from them, They are destroying all the Salt they can find. Capt Farish and a part of our Company are still on the Tenn. River. They are Scattered all around the Mountain trying to Keep the Yankees back.

We have several Sick in our Company left one or two on they way up

It is very dry up here I never Knew what dust was untill Now. I have Suffered very much from it. The Water has disagreed with me I have been unwell for a day or two but I am better today. I dont dread anything but Sickness. The hardships that I undergo are nothing Compared to the loss of the Company of a dear wife and baby. The dearest things on earth to me. If I can only live to pass through Safe and See our Country once more in peace. How Sweet that reunion will be with my dear ones at home, It will be pleasant to think in after life that I took part in battling for the freedom of our Country. How different will be my feelings from those who are Staying at home and Shirking from duty. My dear every thing looks /da/rk now, but let us put our trust in the Lord and hope for the best, A young man named Nickolson a Member of our Company has been ordered to preach, and has been appointed Chaplain for this Regt. he is an Ephiscopalian, he defended the institution of Slavery on bible Grounds, that it was so intended by God, and it would be Certain to be firmly established in this Country, he is a Northern man and a Nephew of Rev. John Wilmer.

My dear Write to me and let me know how all are I am anxious to hear from you let me know every thing. did you get the Salt from Goode?<sup>11</sup> It is so dry here I am uneasy about our hogs. I am afraid they will Suffer for the want of Water Whatever you do have them attended to.

If you hear of any one coming up here write by them if not write to La Fayette Walker Co Geo. Co.-D 3 Ala. Cav. Martin's Brigade. Telle Mother to write to me—I cannot write to all of them but they Can to me, my letter to you must answer for all, I have but a poor chance to wr/ite/. Sitting on the ground with hundreds /o/f Men and horses a making a fuss around me do remember what I told you and believe me your ever affectionate husband

R. A. Smith

(Marginal Note)

If Haynes is coming write by him Tell Danl. to get you Some Flour, and what ever else you may need

Lee & Gordons Mills Ga

Sept 22nd 1863

My Dear Eliza

I stop this Morning to drop you a few lines to let you know that I am still alive and in fine health and Spirits. I have but a few minutes to write, I have not received the first leeter from you My dear why dont you write to me. I have seen the hardest times Soldiers ever seen, but it agrees with me finely. I have been riding day and night for 2 weeks, have had no time to write you We have been in Several fights but Come out Safe We had the hardest Cavalry fight that has even been fought, (so said by old Soldiers) on Saturday Morning driving the Yanks Several mile, Sunday we had 2 fights, Yesterday one We have taken about 600 prisoners with all their Camp Equipage Wagons Ambulances amounting in all to about 50, that is only the Cavalry fight The Infantry has been fighting 2 days, I have never heard any thing to equal it, I do

<sup>11</sup> In all probability this is the same Goode family which at this time lives at Gastonburg, Wilcox County. Bob Goode of this family was head of the State Department of Agriculture a few years ago and was an unsuccessful candidate for Governor of Alabama about 12 years ago.

not Know the particulars, we drove them back Several miles We all believe we will whip the Yanks this time I heard that Rip Welch was Killed on Sunday The loss on both sdies was very heavy as soon as the battle is over I will write you regularly once a week if I am lucky enough to get out

I am writing on Yankey Paper Direct your letter to Ringgold Georgia Co D 3 Ala Cav. Martins Brigade Care Capt J D Farish

Old Whity,<sup>12</sup> as the Boys Call him stands it finely, he was appraised at \$875. only one horse in the Company appraised for more. I have not seen Jim in 2 weeks he has chill and fever, all our negroes and Wagons have been sent to the rear I long to hear from you all I have heard nothing only in letter I recd from Mother Can that dear little one say Papa yet. Oh how I want to see you and her

R A Smith

(do write)

I wrote you 2 letters & Mother one.

(Marginal notes)

Tell Mary<sup>13</sup> to write to me I will write to her when I get time let me know how everything is getting on

When I get time I will give you all the news if I live

(This letter was written on yankee paper—Form No. 10 & 11-(b), Inventory and Inspection Report of Unserviceable Ordnance Stores.)

Tunnell Hill Ga Sept 28th 63

My Dear Eliza

I reced yours of 11th ultimo a few days ago. You have no idea what a pleasure it was to me to hear from you I am well and have been although I have Seen hard times. I have but a few mintes to write. I came down here some thirty miles from my command to Send Jim

<sup>12</sup> In all probability, Mary Caroline Powe, a first cousin, who married Doctor (?) James Watkins Nettles.

<sup>13</sup> His horse which as was the custom he had brought from home.

hom/e/, he has been very Sick and dont Know that he will be able to reach home. I send him in care of Danl Smiths<sup>14</sup> Boy Green. I have given him Green 25\$ to pay his expenses. I am going to try to get him on the Cars this morning, if I do not I will leave him in the Hospital at this place. There are so many wounded Soldiers that it is a difficult matter to get him on

Danl. Smiths Boy will be coming back in 3 or 4 weeks. I want you to send me that over Shirt that you have made and that big pair of Socks that you had. I want the socks for big Thompson I want you to make me an under shirt out of that skirt that Mother gave me. Also one haven Sack. Put them in a wallet that I can carry on my Saddle in place of Saddle Bags, Sew them up in that & mail them to me like you do a letter.

I have no news to write you. Gen Bragg is surrounding Chattanooga and fortifying. My Command is ordered now on the right of that place, it is thought that we will cross the Tennessee River above there

I have not seen any of my acquaintances who were wounded but there are a many a one the loss on both sides is awful. I have seen hundreds of wagons loaded with them Such Sights and moans you can have no idea of

Tell Mary Nettles<sup>15</sup> if she has not heard from Jim that he went through unhurt Tell your ma that her Brother Charly<sup>16</sup> was wounded in one hand. I expect has gone home before now. I hear of a great many more but I have not time to write any more

My dear Eliza do write to me often you know I look for letters and they come so Seldom. I have not reced but one letter from you. Tell Mother, Danl. Dr Nettles<sup>17</sup> and your Sister Mary to write to me I will write to them when I can I have been going night and day, but as soon as this fight is over I will have more time, I have Stood it remarkably well. Old soldiers Say they never saw harder times.

Do my dear write me at least once a week to Ringgold Georgia, if I leave the letters will be forwarded on. Write by Danl Smiths Boy give

---

<sup>14</sup> This Daniel Smith was a cousin. His home was a few miles from Camden at Canton Bend, Alabama. Green was his colored manservant.

<sup>15</sup> Probably Mary Caroline Powe, wife of James Watkins Nettles.

<sup>16</sup> Charley Gerald, Eliza's uncle.

<sup>17</sup> James Watkins Nettles (?).

all my regards I was so sorry to hear of Poor little Dannys death, take good care of our little darling try not let her forget me, I have strong hopes of keeping my health. I long to see you all

May the Lord bless us all is my Prayer.

Farewell my dearest one on Earth

Your loving husband

R. A. Smith

(Marginal Note)

Always be Certain to put the regiment & Brigade that I belong to on your letter

Camp Near Tunnel Hill Whitfield Co. Ga.

October 9th 1863

My Dear Eliza

Yours of 19th Ultimo did not come to hand untill this morning. Week after week have I looked for a letter from you, but none came untill this morning you know that it was a pleasure when the Mail Rider came in and my name was called to get a letter, the only way that I ever hear from Home My dear it does me good to hear from you, but I am truly Sorry to hear that you were in pain at times, but my dear we may expect to have pains and troubles of Some Kind or other My Dear you must bear up under afflictions with patience, do try and be cheerful, do not Stay too closely confined at home, I am afraid you are working too hard you know I cautioned you against that before I left you, do think of it, get in your buggy and ride out and pass off the time with that little darling, do not give yourself too much uneasiness about me I am getting along much better than I expected I would, although I see hard times, they are not worse than I expected I have been in fine health and look to the future with brighter hopes and with a more buoyant Spirit than I could feel when I left home. My dear the hardest work I ever done was parting with you and that dear Charming little darling baby, all my own Sweet ones, Oh I long to See you, let us look forward with patience for the time to come when we will meet again. Oh that happy happy day, let us put our trust in the Lord and hope for it,



When I wrote my last letter I had been to Tunnel Hill to send Jim home, after that I undertook to overtake my Command, which was about 30 miles in advance of me, I followed them to the Tennessee River. they had crossed over above Chattanooga, and the Yankees had closed in behind them and it was impossible for me to reach them. I then turned back to hunt up the waggon Train, which I found had moved back to this place to get corn, which is verry Scarce anywhere in forty miles of the Main Army, Some people have been stripped of everything they had to eat they will be compelled to get supplies from a distance or Starve. You people at home have no idea of what War is although you hear so much about it It would surprise you to see how our own Soldiers act towards the Citizen. They take everything, they go into his yard take his chickens, hogs potatoes, and everything else and do not think of ever offering pay. A woman not 2 miles from here who has a husband in Fort Gaines at Mobile had a fine horse worth 1000\$ Dollars chained in her yard they went in the other night and broke the lock and took him out. She has not heard of him Since. Our regimental and Company officers are not near as strict as they should be about Such things. Our Company is about the best I have noticed, it is made up mostly of recruits and they are not as bad as those who have been in during the war. There is a great deal of Wickedness in Camps, Cursing Swearing Card-playing &c a continual ring in your Ears all the time, which annoys me very much, it is a poor place for a man of any Morals at all. I have come here with a strong determination to hold out faithful with the help of the Lord I will try and not fall into any bad habits

My dear the thought of your afflictions weighs on my mind heavier than anything else if you can only keep your health and pass through this winter Safe all will be well, I will come home in December if there is any possible chance, though that is owing to circumstances entirely. If we whipp the Yankees here again or drive them back, times may be easy and be allowed a short furlough

I dont know that I have any news from the front that would be of interest to you. Gen. Bragg is nearly all around Chattanooga with his main Army throwing up entrenchments and is in a position to see every move of the enemy.

Gen Wheeler and all the Cavalry have crossed the Tennessee River, with the view of getting in the rear of Rosencrans Army and destroying the railroad, waggons Supplies of all kinds &c. It is reported that Wheelers Cavalry have burned 500 Waggons since they went over, all com-

munication is cut off from them, I have no idea when I will get with the Regiment again, it may be a month. Squads are being sent out from the waggons daily for the purpose of Picketing on the River above and below the Main Army, I expect I shall have to go in a few days, Gen Bragg is throwing Shell now and then every day into Chattanooga, but Rosencrans does not reply. Whether he will evacuate or come out and give Bragg an other fight is still in doubt. They are too strongly fortified for Bragg to take the place by storm without an overwhelming loss. I am inclined to think that he will not attempt that, I see some large Siege Guns going up with our Vicksburg troops, they are all ordered here, Bragg has the largest force he has ever Commanded I wrote you in my last to send me that overshirt that I left, and make an undershirt of flannel, that large pair of socks you had, with a wallet that I could use in place of Saddle Bags. (If you have them) Send me one more pair of woolen Socks for myself.

There has been but one rain since I have been out, it rained all the other night and day. I have gotten a large Yankee Oil cloth that will keep me dry so I do not fear the rain so much. I wrote you to send the things by Danl Smiths Green, but you may hear of some else coming up. I am in no hurry for them. Danl Sellers and Jno Blue<sup>18</sup> came up last week I was expecting a letter by Jno Blue but was disappointed, always write by some one Coming if any as I Can get the letters sooner I have recd 2 letters from you and one from Mother tell her I answered hers the same day I recd. it tell her to be certain to write again. I am Glad you got the flour and have plenty of everything in the way of provisions. Spin & weave plenty of Clothing for the Negroes, after that let them gather as many Peas Pindars as everthing will bring a good price. Did you get the wheat from Wilmer! it should be sowed. I have eaten some syrup made of the Chinese Sugar Cane as good as any I ever saw of the other, if you can engage some seed to plant next spring do so, a great deal of it is planted up here. My dear I must close by telling you to write to me often, Remember me kindly to all

Oh how I would like to hear that darling say papa do not let her forget me. I am glad to hear your Father is recovering give them all my warmest love Accept the Same from your Loving and devoted husband

Robt. A Smith

(marginal note)

Let me know if Jim gets Home Direct letter to Chickamauga Tennessee

<sup>18</sup> In all probability another cousin for Robert Alexander's Aunt Mary married one Duncan Blue and resided in Wilcox County.

Meigs County Tennessee Novr 9th 1863

Dear Eliza

I have again taken my pen in hand to write you a few lines to inform you that I am still in the enjoyment of good health, I never have enjoyed better health than I do at this time, I feel very thankful to our Creator for the blessing, as the thing I feared most when setting out to the Army was Sickness, I have been truly blessed up to this time, the only thing that troubles me now My Dear is being away from you. I have been home sick for some time as I cannot hear from you, I have not had a letter from you Since E. S. Farish Came up, which has been more than a month ago, if I could hear from you about every week or two it would not be so bad, I hope and expect there are Several letters at the wagon camps for me, we send an other man over to day again to bring our letters, I am between the Tennessee and Hinassee Rivers about 45 miles above Chattanooga picketing the Tennessee River. there is no post office over here, and I get no news of any kind, therefore I can write nothing new, there are about 110 men over here under a Capt. Cole, I with 10 others of our Company are Courriers for the Capt. we /have/ been up here nearly a month, we have been Staying in a house for the last two weeks getting our Cooking done we have had a fine time with alm/ost/ nothing to do, how long we may remain here I do not know, we may be ordered off at a minutes Warning or we may Stay a month longer, I wrote Mother a letter the day before I left the Wagons, there has been no one here from there since then, tell her if she has not answered my letter to be certain to do so, tell Mary she must write to me. I sent her a Yankee news paper that I captured from the Yanks, More than a month ago, did she get it?

I have not seen any one from Gen. Wheelers Command since I wrote you last, I know but very little of what they are doing, I have heard that the Yankeys have Crossed the Tennessee River below Chattanooga and are attempting to flank Gen Bragg as they did before, Some think he will have to fall back again, I heard that he has Sent a part of his force back to La Fayette as the Yanks are reported to be coming up Wills Valey. Gen Longstreet with his Corps has been sent up to London on the Tennessee River and Gen. Cheatham has been ordered back to Chattanooga, there are no Yankees above us on this Side of the River our troops have Crossed over and gone in the direction of Knoxville after Gen Burnside, I think they will drive them from East Tennessee, if Gen Bragg Can only hold his own at Chattanooga, I think we will

have to give them an other Battle near there, I fear the Consequences, It is getting dark I cant write anymore My dear I hope these lines will find you well, Oh I how I long to see you and the dear little darling, do write to me tell me all the news, how everything is getting on, how the Crops, turns out, &c &c. Give my warmest love to your Father & Family—and Mother and Sally<sup>19</sup> and all of them—Tell the Doctor I intended to write to him before now but I have nothing of enterest to write, he must write to me I wrote Danl. a letter tell him to write, do my Dear try and take Care of your self and the baby, dont do too much, visit Mother and your Father often and try and be cheerful I hope something will Come to pass that I may get to see you again before long, Kiss that dear baby for me. May the Lord bless you both is my prayer

Farewell for the present

Robt. A. Smith

Meigs Co Tennessee Novr 18th 1863

My Dear Eliza

I have taken this opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you know that I am well I recd 3 letters from you last week the first dated the 14th Septr nearly 2 months old the other two was dated in October, I am glad to hear that you were well, I want you to get you Some new Envelopes, as the ones you use are too easily worne out All three of the last letters I got were worn out and open they are handled so much before I get them, I do not know how long I will remain here you need not write oftener than every two weeks as I do not get them often direct letters as before

You did not say where Jim died at I have no news

I am as ever your dear and devoted husband

R. A. Smith

excuse this short letter as I have no time to write

Spring Vale Jefferson Co Tenn.  
Decr. 8th 1863

My Dear Eliza

When I last wrote you I was in Meigs Co. picketing on the Tenn.

---

<sup>19</sup> In all probability Robert Alexander's sister, Sarah Christian who had married Dr. Zack E. Nettles.

River, I left there on the 23rd of Novr. We were ordered to report to Gen Martin near Knoxville. We were on the Road 5 days, when we arrived, heavy Skirmishing was going on with the Enemy on the Opposite side of the River from Knoxville, the Cavalry had no way of Crossing only by fording which was a very dangerous way as the Holston is nearly as wide again as the Ala. River and very swift so much so that several of the horses were washed down and 7 men of our Brigade were drowned, "Old Whitey" Carried me over Safe and dry.

As soon as we got over we were dismounted and Sent in to the fight, we drove the Enemy back Killing Several. Some of our Men fell near me, One of our Company by the side of me was struck with a spent Ball doing no injury however. our company went through safe While over there news came that Gen. Bragg had fallen back from Chattanooga and ordered Gen Longstreet to raise the Seige at Knoxville, which place we had Surrounded, Longstreet attacked Burnside at a place called Campbleton and drove him to Knoxville a distance of about 30 or 40 miles as soon as Burnside got into Knoxville he pressed all the Citizens and negroes in reach of the place and put them to throwing up fortifications It was almost impossible for Longstreet to take the place, The Cavalry made a raid in the direction of Cumberland gap meeting the Enemy Cavalry at Maynardsville, gave them a whipping and drove them across Clinch River Killing Several and Capturing about 50 prisoners, the next Morning a detail of 5 from each Company in the division with good horses were sent out to press Horses. It fell to my lot to take the trip, we started about 11 oclock at night riding all night and day only stopping once a day to feed our horses, It was the Coldest weather I ever felt. I felt like my feet would frieze off I never Saw as much ice in my life, we were under Command of Col. Blakey of the 1st Ala Regiment, we crossed Clinch River and went down the River Making a circuit round through the Enemys lines and back bringing out about 20 Head of horses we were near but did not Come in Contact with any force, Myself and one other man gave one Yankey a race of about 1½ miles Come very near Catching him but he ran down Some rocky Hills and got away from us. I have just returned and over taken the Command near this place I am writing this while I have time and to have it ready to send off if I should go near a post office, there are no Post offices in this Country

I have not recd. a letter from you since Green came up I have not seen him. I heard that Jace Holomon had brought me some things but



I have not seen him The Boys in my mess told me that you sent me some Potatoes and Sweet Cakes and having no way of sending them to me they eat them, I was glad that they happened to be at the Waggon and got them, I have not got any of the Clothes you sent me, I left the waggon on the 11th day of October with one suit of clothes leaving everything I had but what I had on thinking that I would return in a day or two, you must know that I need them, such is the way things go in the Army, I am fearful the Enemy has C/a/ptured our waggon and got my clothing.

The soldiers are getting tired of the war and want it settled some way they do not care much how, most all think we are whipped

My dear you want to know when I am Coming home, My dear that is a question I Cannot answer, you may Know that I will Come in a hurry when I can let us live in hope I have injoyed good health except having a bad cold

Yours forever

R. A. S.

(marginal notes) I saw Oliver Spencer Said he saw you about a month ago you were well—May the Lord bless you—Gen Hagan was severly wounded near Kingston. Sim Lam/pkrey/ (?) wounded in hand the only one hurt in our Company Liut Wm Burson<sup>20</sup> was killed in the Same fight

Russellville Jefferson Co Tenn Decr 12/63

My Dear Eliza

I hasten to write you a few more lines to let you know where I am and that I am in good health. My Dear I have just learned that we are ordered to remain here with Gen Longstreet, We have no way of getting any letters from home for the present but I think there will be a way open soon I have got a Citizen to Send this to Bristol and have it mailed for me. I am doing very well here except getting letters from home, My Dear we must give up the idea of Seeing each other for the present, My

<sup>20</sup> A Mr. Burson, probably a relative, reported upon his return from the war that Robert Alexander must have had a premonition of his death for he, Robert, had, on the morning of the day he died, told him, Mr. Burson, that he, Robert, believed he would die that day.



Dear let us live in hope trusting in the Lord, you well know that if there was away to get home I would gladly avail myself of the opportunity, I have not recd a letter from you since Green came, I saw Oliver Spencer and he told me you were well, you need not write to me untill you hear from me again, My Dear do be patient and try and take things easy as you can we must Content our selves with being separated for the present, Oh how glad I would be if I could be with you to wait on you in your affliction but it is willed otherwise, My dear there is not a night that I lie down but I offer up a prayer for you and that Darling, I hope you do the same for me, I have great faith in prayer, let us so live if we never meet on Earth again that we may meet in that world to come when parting will be no more, Oh is not that a joyful thought. My dear I have hope that we will yet gain our Independence, and all things will be well with us yet, though if I were at home I believe I would put what money I had on hand in land, as the Soldiers are generally in favor of repudiating the debts of the Confederate States in the event we do gain our independence.

I think it advisable not to sell any Corn for the present but feed the hogs well and take especial care of all kinds of Stock. Everything is very high up here Corn is selling at 5\$ pr bushel Pork 1.25 pr lb Irish potatoes 12\$ pr Bushel Jeans 10\$ pr yd Leather 8\$ pr lb and everything else in proportion that is in places where they take our money, just round here in east Tenn. they will not take it at all you cant buy anything with it.

It is thought that Gen Longstreet will make a stand here somewhere if he does it is likely we will stay here all winter. I would rather be here than down about the Old Battle Ground near Chattanooga as everything is plenty here for man and horses and Scarce there, you get more news from the seat of war from the papers than I can write you I am out of the world here as far as mails are Concerned get no news from anywhere

It is reported here that Gen Bragg has been superseded by Gen. Johnston, which I think is a good Change and generally Satisfactory to this Army, My dear excuse this hastily written letter, you must recollect that I am setting on the ground writing on my knee with a noisy Crowd a round me

When you write again give me all the news, are all well? Who is your preacher for the Coming Year? &c &c do not write unless you can send letter by some one Coming up

Remember me kindly to all my friends give my love to my dear Mother. tell her that I often think of her. I hope she is well I wrote to her & Danl the day I left the wagon camp I have not recd an answer.

John Blue Geo. Stother and several of our Company are with the wagons wherever they are. J Holomon left word with the boys that he saw you and the baby sent me a kiss God bless her little heart, may she not forget me. God bless you I must close by signing myself you ever devoted husband.

R. A. Smith

Decr 23rd 1863

Near Morristown Granger Co. Tenn.

My Dear Eliza

It is with the greatest pleasure that I have just learned from a Capt. of Longstreets Army that he Could send a letter out for me.

I have written twice but could not Send them out. I know you are uneasy and anxious to hear from me. Oh how I long to hear from you. I have enclosed an old letter that I have on hand from some time that will tell you the cause of my not writing you before now

We are cut off from all Communication with any mail Route, I expect to send this out by Gen. Longstreets Courier to Bristol a distance of 80 miles I do not know whether you will get it or not.

I am seeing some hard times but still keep my health, and though I am in Some fight or Skirmish with the enemy once and sometime twice a week I am happy to inform you that I am still Safe and sound, while many others have fallen. In a fight at Russelville on the 12th of this month we lost Several of our Regt. though we drove the enemy back. Wounded in our Company is Neill McArthur shot through the breast and Considered very dangerous, I have not heard from him in over a week, E. S. Farish wonded slightly in ankle, Robt Denny Slightly in Knee, in Co C. Peter Shamberger was shot through the arm slightly Ed Lilly in thigh Dick Rayburn thigh broken Some others not recollected, on the day before while on a scout W. Dallas of our Company was killed Jas. A. Blakely my messmate and warm friend was captured on

the French Broad River in Sevier Co. I miss him very much and greatly regret his being Captured.

I have not got anything that you sent me yet I have but one suit of clothes with me and then I have one, with all the hardships which are many I could under go better, could I but hear from you, but that is out of the question the last letter I got from you was brought by Green dated the 21st of Octr more than 2 months ago, it is just 4 months to day since I saw you, Oh how I long to see you, but I under go every thing better than you have any idea that I could. I could under go anything for the Sake of peace and the thought of seeing you again, I want you to do the best you can with every thing, do treat our Negroes well do not try to make too much, tell Danl to direct you in every thing about the place Keep an acct. of the amt. pork you kill, try and save it well.

I do not know in what direction our forces are going from here, there is a large Yankee force in front of us. Gen Martin Commands all the Cavalry here; subject to Gen. *Longstreets* orders. he is crossing the Holston River today to the south, we know nor hear nothing from any where no mails or Communication of any kind, you may write me one letter if you receive this, give me all the news of every kind My dear I am uneasy about you and long to hear from you

Felix Tait has been appointed Quarter master of the 2nd Brigade of Cav. by Gen Jnos. Morgan who now Commands a division, he will be going home soon.

Direct your letter to Robt A. Smith

Co D 3rd Ala Regt.  
Martin's Division Cav.  
Army of East Tennessee  
Morristown Tennessee

write at the top of the letter Via Bristol

My dear be of good Cheer I hope times will be better yet—give my love to all, tell Mother I would give anything in the world Could I but see her

be particular in backing your letter you need not write but once if you do not hear from me again, excuse this hastily written Scroll

I remain my dear your affectionate and ever devoted husband

R A Smith

Kiss my darling for Papa

Camp Near Morristown Jany 9th 1864

My Dear Eliza

I drop you a few lines this Morning to let you know that I continue to enjoy good health, although I have to encounter a great many hardships, I wrote you on the 23rd of Decr. last, that letter will explain to you the cause of my long Silence, We had a very heavy fight here on the 27 Decr. More men engaged than was in any Cavalry fight Since the war began, the 3rd Ala Regt went in to the fight mounted I was in the hottest part of it and all though the shot fell like hail all around me I came out unhurt. We made 2 charges driving the enemy back, Our Company had 5 horses Killed one Crippled the enemy were reinforced with infantry and drove us from the field. Capt. Brown with 12 men myself being one of the number were sent into the Enemy's lines to find out their position &c, when the enemy came upon us and pursued us for 2 miles Capturing & Wounding 3 of our men. I made my escape losing my hat Saddlebags and everything I had, 4 of us lost our hats 10 lost their guns the Capt lost his Saddlebags I have not a thing now but what I have on and they are nearly worn out, I had letter in my Saddlebags that I had written you the Rascals got that with all my paper and Ink Needle Case Testament &c &c, My dear I want you to send me one pair pants 1 pr Drawers 1 shirt (*white Cotton that I wore at home will do*) 2 pr socks 1 pr boots if you can get them made if not send shoes—get Hoffman to make my boots a little larger than he did the others, get Danl to have a wool hat made for me, I think fighting will end now for the Winter, an order has been issued granting furloughs to one man in every ten Wm Tate and Henry Hobbs are to have the first as they were not at Home last year I want you to send my things by Wm Tate 2 men will be furloughed every 40 days I hope my /time or turn will/ come after awhile—I want you to send me a ba. . . made something on the plan of Saddle bags of thick cloth /dyed some/ dark color, to put my clothes in. I have not /a letter/ that you sent me from home yet, I have not heard fom you in nearly 3 months. Oh how I long to hear from you, If you do not get my things ready for Tate you can send them by the first chance, send me some paper & envelopes if you can get them, write me all the news direct you letter Co D 3rd Ala Regt. Martins div. Cav. Army of east Tennessee Morristown—by way of Bristol

I remain yours as ever

R A Smith







## THAT DOCTOR—THE SPY

By MRS. OCTAVIA FLETCHER FRAZIER

My father was a citizen of Madison and Limestone Counties in north Alabama. He lived at "Burnam Wood" on Nubbin Ridge. Father graduated in Medicine in 1854, at the University of Pennsylvania Medical College in Philadelphia. He enlisted at Huntsville in 1861, in the Medical Corps of the Confederate Army, and was in service through the battles of Manassas, or Bull Run, as some historians call it. After a petition signed by several hundred citizens, he was released and ordered home to practice, for there were many ill among the people of both counties.

Later there was an epidemic of pneumonia among the Federal Troops that were billeted near Athens, Alabama. The Commanding Officer requested Father to please treat the soldiers. For months Dr. Fletcher was in and out of Federal tents as a physician and humanitarian, and he saved many lives. He and the Commanding Officer became friends, though foes!

In 1864 the Troops were ordered elsewhere and a new Army of Officers and men was sent to replace them, near Athens. Father had continued to go to see those who were too ill to be moved, consequently he saw other new patients.

One night, after midnight, Uncle Dick Mason, my mother's trusted slave, friend and protector during the crucial years, was aroused by several noisy soldiers. When he asked them what they wanted, one replied,

"That Doctor, the spy!"

Uncle Dick told them that the Doctor was upstairs in his room; that his wife had a five-day old baby. He said that the Doctor needed rest, and he didn't want to disturb the Doctor's wife, either, but he'd tell the Doctor they were there, and he'd come down.

Although Uncle Dick protested, they brushed him aside and rushed upstairs. Uncle Dick, ever alert, ran up the back stairs into Father's room, adjoining Mother's, and Father stepped into the hall in night-shirt to welcome the enemy. Uncle Dick knew that they meant business when

he heard them say "spy," so he got Father's watch and chain, his bill fold, and all the change in his trousers pockets while they were arresting the Doctor as a spy. They would not listen to reason or be persuaded by Mother's tears and protests, but entered her room, where they handcuffed Father and took him away to jail in Huntsville.

Uncle Dick had slim chance while they were ordering Father to put on his clothes to whisper:

"I got it"—and wink when he saw Father feeling for his watch in his vest pocket.

Later, when Father found he did not have a penny, he knew where it was. There were no 'phones in those days, so Uncle Dick called in another trusted and loyal servant to take a note from Mother to Grandfather, about three miles away.

In Mrs. W. D. Chadick's Diary of Civil War Days on page 253 there is this record:

"May 18th, 1864. They have brought in Dr. Fletcher and Mr. Betts today from Madison Station, accused, it is said of guiding the rebels yesterday to the station where the cotton was burned. If it is proved on them, they say they will hang Dr. Fletcher."

I remember hearing Father tell of this experience. He said that the new Officer saw him in the lines of the Federals and felt that he was a spy, though he had no proof. Mr. Betts was a neighbor, and I do not remember Father saying that he was arrested. Although Grandfather, Mr. Betts and all who had any influence in the two Counties tried to have Father declared innocent, and released, he was kept in jail for months. Mother visited him often, with Uncle Dick.

The war had made it impossible to ship cotton to the northern mills, or to foreign countrys from the South. Those planters who could not afford to hold their cotton had to sell to those who had money to buy because debts had to be settled.

In some of the states they managed to hide out as many bales as possible, but this seemed impossible in Madison and Limestone Counties. Too many enemy troops billeted around. However, cotton was

burned now and then, but those responsible were rarely caught or seldom convicted.

One day Father had been listening to the rhythm of hammers, when in the silence for a moment he heard one man ask, what they were building that for. Another man replied:

“We are building this scaffold for the Doctor, the Spy—they are going to hang him.”

After months of seeking, the message finally got to the former Commanding Officer who knew Father. He was infuriated by his arrest, and came to Huntsville, had Father released, and all those who were billeted at Athens were sent elsewhere.



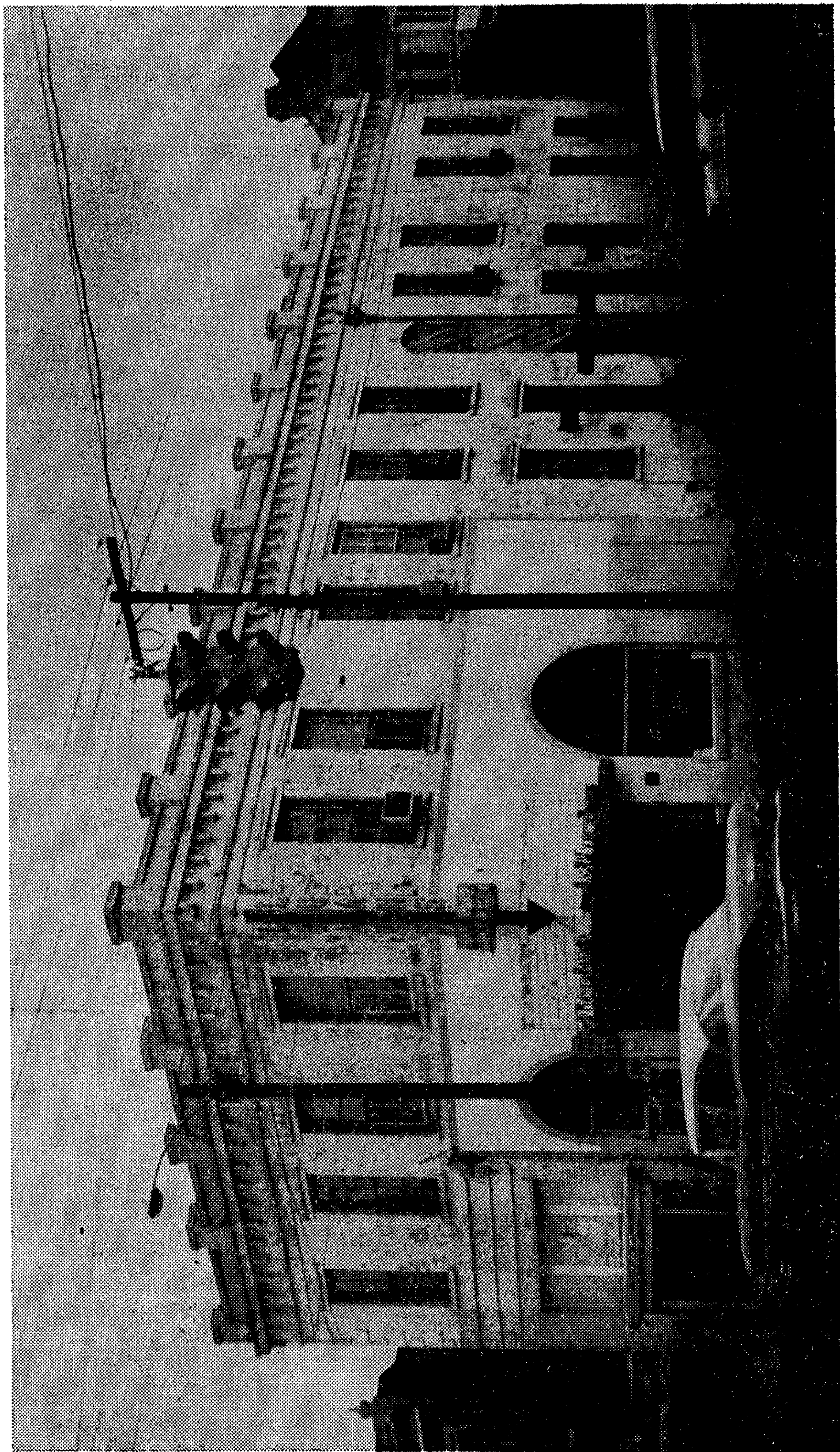
## THE ORIGIN OF THE CONFEDERATE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT AND COMMENTS ON SOME STAMPS

The Confederate Government organized at Montgomery by a convention of delegates from seven seceded states, elected Mr. Jefferson Davis of Mississippi, as President, and he was inaugurated here February 18, 1861. Mr. Davis selected a Cabinet, the last of whom was Judge John H. Reagan of Texas. He was confirmed as Postmaster General on March 6th. The members of Mr. Davis's Cabinet were, Robert Toombs, of Georgia, Secretary of State; C. G. Memminger, of South Carolina, Secretary of the Treasury; Leroy Pope Walker, of Alabama, Secretary of War; Judah P. Benjamin, of Louisiana, Attorney General; Stephen R. Mallory, of Florida, Secretary of the Navy; and Mr. Reagan. These served during the time the seat of Government was at Montgomery. The Government offices were in the building owned by the Montgomery Fire Insurance Company, on the corner of Bibb and Commerce Streets, with the exception of the Post Office Department, which occupied the second floor of that building, still standing, at the northeast corner of South Perry Street and Washington Avenue.

Thomas Welsh was the U. S. Postmaster at Montgomery, appointed in 1858, and he automatically took over as the Confederate Postmaster on the creation of the Confederate Government. Postmaster General Reagan's Circular No. 1, which was addressed to the Governors of the seven states, notified them that by an agreement with the United States Government, all postal matters in the Confederacy would be handled by the former U. S. Postmasters under the direction of the U. S. Postmaster General until June 1st. In accordance with that agreement, he appointed all former U. S. postmasters as Confederate postmasters and they were accordingly confirmed by the Confederate Senate.

Mr. Welsh resided at the southeast corner of South Perry Street and Washington Avenue. In the corner of that yard, which until recently was the site of the Montgomery Curb Market, was a well which figured prominently in the romance of Montgomery's early days. Some few years before the organization of the Confederacy, John Powell's furniture shop, located in a building on South Perry Street, coincident with the site of the Elizabethan Shop of today, caught fire and was totally destroyed because the line which formed the bucket brigade, extending from that site up to Mr. Welsh's yard, was prevented from getting water. Mr. Welsh and Mr. Powell were not on good terms.





This 1958 view shows the building occupied by the Confederate Postoffice Department during the time the Confederate Government was located at Montgomery, in the Spring of 1861. Obviously, the lower floor at the corner of Perry Street and Washington Avenue, has seen some changes. The building is interesting not only as the site of the Postoffice Department but here from 1848 to 1860, Elmore and Yancey maintained law offices.



The Montgomery post office was located in the early days of 1861, on Montgomery Street, a few yards west of the present Exchange Hotel entrance on that street and in a building formerly occupied by Paschal Luciani, one time personal aide of Napoleon, and whose daughter married Herman Arnold of Dan Emmet's minstrels. Mr. Arnold it was who set a band score for Dixie in order that it could be used when the parade moved up Market Street to the President's inauguration on February 18th. Mr. Welsh removed the office from that point to the Montgomery Theatre building on the corner of Monroe and North Perry Streets. The office occupied that site throughout the period of the Confederacy.

Among the rare items of philatelic interest incident to the Confederate period, are three varieties of the Montgomery Provisional Postal Stamped Envelopes. One of these covers bore a circular imprint in which was "T. Welsh Paid 5." Another bore the circle enclosing "T. Welsh Paid 10;" another one with the figure "10" impressed on the "5." The fourth variety of the T. Welsh envelope is not impressed with his name, but bears a circular notation "Montgomery Ala. Paid 2." It is about twice the size of the original 5c imprint. This variety was not found until a relatively few years since. Some question it as being a Confederate issue, though it is quite reasonable to assume that Mr. Welsh originated it after he went in office and might have been using it at the time of the organization of the Confederacy. The T. Welsh envelopes are on white, orange, amber and buff paper. They bear about the same value as other Confederate Provisionals, having no standing relative with Autaugaville, Greenville, Livingston, Demopolis and one or two others, though they do sell for about thirty-five dollars each. Apparently only a few remained in Montgomery. I have never seen but a small number showing the Montgomery imprint which were found here. Those which have turned up in collectors' hands in later years have come from cities outside of Montgomery, though there are perhaps a few here which were "drop" letters. The 10c and the 10 over 5 are the rarest of the item.

Postmaster General Reagan as early as possible entered into contracts with engravers to furnish stamps but no Confederate stamps had been issued until some months after the Government moved, on May 29th, from Montgomery to Richmond. The first Confederate postage stamp used in Montgomery bears dates after the last of October. Apparently the T. Welsh imprints were discontinued in the summer, or if not, they were not used as generally, for I have seen letters bearing dates of August and September which had the postmark cancellation of "Mont-

gomery Paid 5," or "Montgomery Paid 10," sometimes the figure inside the circle, but more often the rate figure being outside the postmark and in almost any position or place on the envelope. Many of the 1861 Confederate envelopes bear a notation "Chg. No. 6," "86," or what not. This designates that the sender had the postage sent *paid* and charged to his box. Occasionally one is found with a "Due 10c," or whatever the rate would be for the weight of the letter. Mr. Welsh died in 1862 and was succeeded by Mr. E. M. Burton. Obviously no postmaster's provisional impression had a legal status subsequent to the appearance of official postage stamps.

Inasmuch as the proximity of Autaugaville to Montgomery places it in our area, it might interest you to know that A. W. McNeil, the former U. S. Postmaster in the village of Autaugaville, some twenty-five miles west of here, issued a very well devised hand stamp which he impressed onto envelopes and on to small bits of paper and sold them as Confederate "postmaster's provisional" stamps. These command Big prices. The Livingston stamp, an adhesive, priced at \$3000, appears rarely. The Greenville stamp, of all Alabama issues has been counterfeited most. The experts look with marked skepticism on those which appear now.

Why Judge Reagan and his Post Office Department chose quarters separate from those of the other cabinet members, I am not able to say unless he anticipated that he would need a stock room or space for types of the mail bags and other paraphernalia necessary for the conduct of the post office. The removal of the capital to Richmond obviously precluded this necessity for the U. S. supplies had been by no means all dissipated at the time of the discontinuance of the handling of Confederate mails by the United States.

Still another phase of Confederate mail handling at Montgomery, was Express mail or Express Parcel Post. The Southern Express Company and later the Pioneer Express Company was handling mail out of Montgomery to Virginia in the summer of 1861, and one of the rare covers which bears a big price, is one which contained a parcel of papers, sent to Col. Tenant Lomax of the 3rd Alabama Infantry Regiment, reaching him about the time of his arrival in Virginia. The Pioneer Express Company handled mail and parcel post west out of Montgomery as early as the fall of 1861, and continued to do so throughout the period of the Confederacy.

To collectors of Confederate postal material, Col. August Dietz's *Handbook of Confederate Stamps* and the recently issued richly illustrated Handbook issued by the Dietz Publishing Company for the United Daughters of the Confederacy, are necessary items. General Reagan's First Quarterly Report of the Post Office Department is dated at Montgomery, April 21, and gives the pertinent facts in the organization of his work and on the basis of that, most of our studies of the initial operations of the Department are indebted. The Postmaster General's Reports do not cover any of the activities of the several postmasters throughout the Confederacy who issued provisional covers. These were purely private issues. The Official Registers of the U. S. Government show all postmasters in the Confederacy as of June 1, 1861, and to each and every one, is entered the amount due the U. S. Government. In 1866 many of those Confederate postmasters were still being carried on the rolls of the United States post offices with amounts charged against them. In few cases were these old postmasters reappointed. Those who were, probably re-paid to the Government the amount charged against them four years before, though we have no record of that.\*

---

\*(Compiled by Peter A. Brannon and read as a paper at a meeting of the Montgomery Stamp Collectors, 1951.)



## JAMES D. LYNCH IN WAR AND PEACE

By James A. Carpenter

Department of English, Mississippi State College

(The James D. Lynch letters are used in the *Alabama Historical Quarterly* because during the period of the Confederate service of Capt. Lynch, he was stationed for practically his entire connection with the army on duty in Alabama. They give a local picture of conditions which existed from 1862 to 1865, in this State. *Editor.*)

Among the papers of Captain James D. Lynch<sup>1</sup> which were recently donated to the Mississippi State College library by Lynch's grandson, Clifford M. Savage, of Okolona, Mississippi, are a number of interesting letters which he wrote to his wife during the War Between the States. These letters are intrinsically and extrinsically significant.

Extrinsically they are valuable because they were written by a man who was a descendant of one of Virginia's most distinguished families; by a man whose three years as a student at the University of North Carolina (whose Centennial Ode he was selected by the faculty to write in later years) prepared him to teach advanced Latin and Greek at Franklin Academy in Columbus, Mississippi just before the outbreak of the War; by a man who was compelled to devote his mature life to studying and to writing because the wounds he received during the War so impaired his hearing that he was forced to give up his practice of law; by a man who at one time felt that the Democratic Party could or would not help the Southern farmer as much as the Populist Party; by a man who was born and reared in Virginia, who spent his young manhood and the years of his Confederate service as a Mississippian, but who in age dedicated himself to Texas and thought of himself as a Texan.

Intrinsically the letters reveal a number of interesting observations and opinions. They show again the conditions under which the soldiers of the South fought and the attitudes which they had. Since these expressions come from a man of above-average intelligence and education, they warrant attention.

---

<sup>1</sup> Author of *Kemper County Vindicated*, *The Bench and Bar of Mississippi*, *The Ku Klux Klan Tribunal*, *Robert E. Lee or Heroes of the South*, *The Bench and Bar of Texas*, *Columbia Addresses the Nations*, etc.

During the first year of the War<sup>2</sup> Lynch served as a private and was present at the battle of Shiloh, took part in the retreat from Corinth and in the skirmishes of that withdrawal. After a year as a private, he returned to Columbus and organized a company of cavalry and returned to active service as captain of "Company I," of Armistead's Regiment. He was gravely wounded as he led a charge upon enemy forces at Lafayette, Georgia and was later captured near Rome, Georgia. He was able to escape, however, by jumping at night from a moving freight train which was taking him to a Federal prison. During the closing months of the war he was stationed at Selma, Alabama, where he was connected with the Niter and Mining Department of the Confederate Government.

Running like a silver cord through all these letters is the theme of deep, sensitive love which Lynch had for his wife and family. His expressions of love transcend the conventionalized, stilted expressions of affection often found in the letters of the period and become the sincere, anxious, delicate sentiments of a devoted husband separated from his wife and children. In them we see again the terrific strain upon the Mississippi soldier as duty to country clashed with devotion to family, a strain which arose from the knowledge that the homeland was invaded by the Yankee and that the women and children were unprotected.

Through these letters runs, too, the crimson cord of undefeated hopes and expectations of victory, of a sincere belief that the South could not be conquered, of a serene confidence—often misplaced—in the superiority of the Southern generals and leaders, and of a complete willingness to make any sacrifice that the South may be free.

Finally, the letters show the great dependence which the Southern soldier had upon the home and personal resources for his provisions and supplies. As the ravages of war and of war's inflation reached their climax this dependence increased. Above the need of supplies, however, was the need which every soldier has felt in every war—the craving desire for news from home. With Lynch as with most Confederate soldiers this need was especially acute because of the faculty com-

---

<sup>2</sup> I am indebted for much of the information on Lynch to: Killis Campbell, "James Daniel Lynch," in *D. A. B.*, vol. II, pp. 520-521; and to Dabney Lipscomb, "James D. Lynch, of Mississippi, Poet Laureate of the World's Columbian Exposition," *Mississippi Historical Society*, vol. 3, pp. 127-137.



munication and poor postal service. Many letters indeed were transmitted by "personal favor" of someone on leave.

The last letter of his group, written in 1875, reveals the buoyancy with which men of Lynch's character faced a new future in a new age. Written from a city whose people endured epic deprivations during the war but which already has become "decidely the gayest place" Lynch has seen since the war, it indicates the courage of the Southern people as they begin to rebuild their society. As a port city, however, Vicksburg naturally was subjected to the impact of foreign capital that may have made it gayer than those towns in the interior.

All of the letters have been reproduced accurately as to spelling and punctuation. Because the fading of the ink has eliminated some end marks of sentences, end marks have been made where needed.

Corinth, Miss. March 17, 1862

My dear Darling,

We arrived here yesterday evening having been five days on the road from being water bound. We met with very kind people, and it never cost us anything. We will leave here probably tomorrow morning for Perdy on the Tennessee river. The Enemy are said to be landing in large force, and a battle is expected to come off in a few days. We however not being trained will only be used as courriers. Generals Bragg, Ruggles, Johnston and Hindman are all here. There is the greatest bustle you ever saw. The whole country as far as you can see is covered with troops. They are coming in, and going out all the time. Our Batallion is at Perdy except Wat (?), Young and a few others stationed here to act as courriers, we are lying over with them today. I have nothing more to tell you now: we can see nothing but soldiers, and hear nothing but the beat of the drums. We have not received our guns yet we left them with Steve Bennett, who was to have been here with them last night, but has not yet arrived. Now my darling kiss my dear little boy three times for me, and let him kiss you for me. Direct your letters to this place for the present. My love to all.

Your affectionate Husband.

J. D. Lynch

Mrs. Hettie Lynch  
West Point, Miss.,

## In Camp near Tupelo

June 9th 1862

My dear Wife

I wrote to you a few days ago from where I found my company near Baldwyn. We are now about 12 or 13 miles above Tupelo, where we are awaiting the approach of the enemy. We have fallen back as far as we intend, far enough to enable Price and Van Dorn to flank them. The enemy are about fifteen miles above here coming up very cautiously so much so as to make the impression that it is only a faint to cover their retreat. it is the wish of our Generals that they will come. We will then be able to surround them. Our line of battle here is about ten miles long and Bragg issued orders yesterday to the citizens between us and the enemy to get away if they don't want to witness the horrors of a battle field and I notice that they are all getting away as fast as possible. I was fearful that Halleck would not follow us and doubt now whether the main body of his army has come this side of Corinth But it is one thing certain that if he comes out here he is whipped and his army will be destroyed before he can reach the Tenn. river. I suppose you have heard the glorious news from Va. and also that Stonewall Jackson has crossed the Potomac, and threatening Washington City. The Yanks had better look out. My health continues to improve. I have no more news. Give my love to all and kiss my dear little boy for his papa. Your aff and devoted husband

J. D. Lynch

## In Camp near Tupelo Miss.

June 16th 1862

My dear Wife

As Mr Brooks will leave here Tomorrow morning for home I will avail myself of the opportunity of sending you a few lines by him. I am now quite well and fare much better down here than we did up in Tennessee. Though I would not be suprised if we go back up there soon. As I believe the enemy are falling back, about half of our Reg. went on a scouting expedition to hunt for them a day or two ago. They came up with the enemy about twenty miles above here, and captured six prisoners and killed one man does not look much like they had any idea of following us. The people above here have nearly

all run away down South with their negroes leaving their crops uncultivated. We are laying out here in the woods under a big tree with no tents, in fact we will have no more this summer. I do not know what the Yanks intend to do. The evacuation of Corinth, and falling back of our army has completely trumped them. They are afraid to follow, and it will be ruinous to retreat. Their prisoners are down on Halleck and say that he has allowed Beauregard to out general him, never the less, they say they intend to persue us, which we are anxious for them to do. I have had the blues ever since I left you. I can't think of anything else but you and the little boy. When I spread my blanket at night under the broad canopy of Heaven I pick out some bright Star for you, and a little one close by for Willie, and gaze on them until I am lost in the arms of Morpheus. I spoke to Atwater about a little carriage, but he says he has none on hand, and that he has so much government work on hand, that he has not the time to make him one. So you will have to carry the little boy shoulder back at present, if I was at home I would make him one. I have nothing else of importance this morning. Direct your letters to Tupelo. I have written you more letters since I have been here and have received none from you yet. You must write to me my darling kiss little Willie. My love to all

Yr. aff & devoted

Jas. D. Lynch

Blakeley Ala. Jan. 11th 1864

My dear darling wife

I wrote you in my last, that we would proberly remain at Canoe Station Ala. on the Mobile & Montgomery Rail Road, but "circumstances alters cases" and consequently we were ordered a few days ago to Blakely, which, is just twelve miles across the bay from Mobile, in fact, it is in sight of the "Gulf City" and I happening to have a very bad bile which rendered painfull to ride horse back, I was put in command of about fifty dismounted men, and ordered down by the cars, and on reaching the boat landing last night I met with my friend Col Bull of 8th Ala. Reg. of our Brigade, and as the boat did get to Blakely until twelve Oclock last night, we concluded to put our men off at Blakely, and go on ourselves over to Mobile which we did & returned by the up boat this morning at 8 oclock. So I have just returned from Mobile but it was only a night visit the Brigade coming through by land will not be here before tomorrow evening. Well our long looked

for Boat arrived about five days ago, and we have had a nice time ever since. We quite selfish about it I have had the Col. & Maj. to dine with me several times, and one day I had all my brother Captains of the Reg. to dine with me. Col. Spence sends his best Respects to my "most *estimable Lady*" and says he will try to merit her distinguished compliment. On the battle field "in her defence particularly" whenever opportunity shall afford." We have had, in short, a fine time of it, over our box, been living like "fighting chickens" I was not atall reprimanded for staying over my time. I was not even required to send up a written excuse to Brigade Quarters which is required of every Officer who overstays his time. I was offered the position of Brigade Ordinance Officer a few days ago, but could not accept it on account of my Rank, it being decided "that the position only called for a 1st Lieutenant. I have no news of importance everything is all quiet now about Mobile. You must direct your letters to me at Blakely Ala. I am in hopes we will get over the other side of the bay yet. Tell my little Sister & Little Son that I enjoyed the ground peas very much. I have not received but one letter from you yet and that was by Henry. You must write to me often my dear One It is such a pleasure for me to hear from you. My ink is so pale I think it will put you up to read this.

Give my love to Mother and all, and kiss my little boy for me.

Your affectionate & devoted  
Husband

James D.

Near Montevallo

June 13th 1864

My dear darling

As we are stopping on account of rain this morning I must write you a few lines to let you know how I am getting on. I feel write well this morning but want to see you and little Rufus very bad allready. We have made a slow trip of it. We have had to stop every day out of the rain. We got very wet the evening we started and stayed at Dr. Duncuns that night. I hated so bad to turn back and undergo the second parting. Y --- has been having chills at the way. That too has detained us on the way. The old Black horse broke down and we had to leave him at Tuscaloosa. I am very uneasy about you all on account of the

Yanky Raid I met McColloughs Brigade yesterday on their way back to Miss to protect you. I wish I could have gone back with them. Darling if the Yanks do get to Country don't let them catch you. Run off and carry all of the negroes out of the way if you can, but by all means get out of the way yourself. I will write again when I get to Blue Mountain. Darling kiss my dear little boy for his Pa, and make him kiss you for me. I will be uneasy about him untill he gets through teething. Give my love to all.

Your loving Housband

James D

Montevallo

I have seen Jims Master. He don't claim the horse, says he will send for his boy. He is quite a Gentleman.

In Camp near Oxford Ala June 18th 1864

My dear Darling

I have reached my command safely, after a very tiresome ride. My Reg. moved from Blue Mountain to this place the day I joined them. That is day before yesterday. We have a fine Brigade, and my Company the brag one of the Regiment. The Col congratulated me yesterday on it. I was very uneasy about you all untill I heard of Forrest's great victory. I think you can rest safely now. We will leave here tomorrow on an expedition of some kind. As the whole Reg. is now preparing for inspection of arms. Our commission have been sent for. We are all right. I am invited to attend a Picnic party to day given to the Officers but I declined going. My old friend Burke commands a company in this Brigade. Besides I have met with good many of my old acquaintences in the command. I wrote to you from Montevallo. I saw Mr. Jones Jim's master there. He seemed very glad to hear from his boy, and very thankfull that he had been taken care of. He says he will not claim the horse as he has no right to him, though the boy told the truth about it, said he would write to Mother, and send for his boy. I wish you would send me my other coat & jacket by the first opportunity. Try and alter the jacket Darling so that it will fit me please, and put my staff buttons on it. You know it is too full in the breast. If Mrs. Watson can get me that cloth you need not trouble about the jacket, but I must have a change of clothes of some sort. My coat is getting very dirty again. I don't need any



thing else but a coat or jacket for a change. The Black horse broke down and I had to leave him at Tusculousa with Pope Strong, have nothing now for Nathan to ride, though I may pick up some sort of a horse. Well I have got to get ready now for the inspection. How is our little precious one. I want to hear from you so bad. Kiss him for his Pa. Write to me at this place. Give my love to all.

Your affectionate Housband

Jas. D. Lynch

Capt Comdy Co. I

Armstead Reg

Head Qrs. Company "I" Armstead Reg. Cav.

In Camp near Talladega Ala, Sept 2nd 1864

My dear Wife,

I have just returned to this place from a long raid in Sherman's rear. The Brigade started from here on the morning of the 24th of August. We have been in the Saddle almost constantly night & day for eight days. I never eat a half dozen times during that time. So you may guess how tired and hungry we all are. I am so tired I can hardly set up long enough to write a letter. I have just finished reading two letters from you. And you may rest assured my Darling that they afforded me great pleasure as I was as anxious to hear from you as I reckon you are to hear from me now. We passed around within five miles of the Yankee army at Marietta, and our horses are so completely broken down that I don't think we will be able to move again for some time. Col. Armistead has returned and taken command of the Brigade to day. It is also reported that Sherman is retreating though I think it premature. We have just heard of the fall of Fort Morgan, but I don't think there is any danger of the fall of Mobile if the people of Miss & Ala will turn out promptly. It was reported at one time that this Brigade would be ordered there, and I would not be suprised if we were to go, as they have sent all of our dismounted men on there. The reports about our being dismounted were all fabricated in Mississippi. There was nothing said of it here. And Gen Pillow himself told me in Montgomery that there was nothing of it, but if we go to Mobile they may dismount us for a short while. At least untill our horses can recruit, to which, I, for my part am perfectly willing, for in that case I might get a chance to see you and my darling little boy. Oh! I do want to see you & him so bad,



and in fact, all, but I am so anxious to hear him talk. As soon as he learns to say Mama you must learn him how to say Pa. Tell Lucie & Couzin Bessie that they might write to me occassionally if they would. Darling if the Yanks ever come down again don't let them get in in their possession, but get out of their way by all means. You & Lucie & Cousin B. can keep out of their way if you try. I cant bear the idea of their having you in their power any more though I don't believe they will ever get down in Miss any more. I would like to be over there to fight them if they do. I have nothing more of interest to tell you now. If I had been at home Jones should not have had that horse. You must write to me again immediately My dear one, and tell me all about my little boy. Tell Cooty I am looking for a letter from her. Give my love to all. I will write often and then you must not expect I long letters. Kiss my Darling boy for me.

Yours devoted Housband,

Jas. D. Lynch

Quarters Co "I" Dec. 26th 1864

In camp on Eastern Shore Mobile Bay

dear Wife

I have reached by command safely, met with Steve with Beula in Mobile waiting to cross over There is no news atall here. We are camped in the piney woods and the blackest and smokiest looking set of fellows you ever saw. Our command had a severe fight before I got here, they routed the enemy, and pursued them nearly to Pensacola killing a great many and losing but two or three men and one Captain. Col Armistead told me yesterday that as soon as we could be relieved here we would cross over to some point on the Mobile & Ohio Road to recruit, when I will probably get a chance to run up home occasionally. We expect to cross over in a few days. Our horses are very poor and consequently will not be able to do much this winter. Well, this is the first Christmas I ever saw without egg-nog. We made our breakfast this morning on a pot of beef bones and corn bred. We expect to have our Christmas when we get over on the Mobile & Ohio Road. Well cant little Rufus lisp a few more words by this time. I dream about you and him ever night, and only pray to be spared for your sakes. Kiss the dear little fellow for his pa. If we stay any time on the Ohio road and the weather remains good, you must come to see me and bring little Rufus and Cooty. Give

my love to all and write soon my dear Darling to your affectionate Husband. Direct your letter to Mobile, J. D. Lynch

Qrs Co. "I" Camp at Canoe Station

Dec. 27th 1864

My dear Wife

I wrote to you yesterday but as we have concluded to send Henry home to day for a box of provisions I must write a few lines by him I wrote you that we were expecting to cross over to some point on the Mobile & Ohio Road to recruit, but I learn this morning that we will probably remain here for some time We are now at Canoe Station Ala on the Mobile & Montgomery road, about fifty miles from Mobile. You must contribute my Dear to the box we have sent Henry for We want hams, flour, potatoes fowls, butter, lard in short some of every thing you can Spare for I will assure you we can get nothing in this country and our rations are very short

Tom Strong's and Kelly Whites friends will help you fill the box

I & Steve & Beula all well

Give my Love to all I have not time to write more. Tell Mother I will take good care of Beula. Kiss my own little boy for me & write soon to

Your aff & devoted Husband

Jas. D. Lynch

P. S. Tell Mother please send me a Turkey.

Qrs. Co. "I" Armisteads Reg. Camp Canoe Station Ala Jan. 6th 1865

My dear darling Wife

As this is my birthday, and Henry has not come with the box we sent for, and I have not heard a word from you since I left home, I have been rather sad all day. We are busy building winter quarters, and I think now that we will remain here all the winter. I have just returned from a long Scout we went within seven miles (of) Pensacola but discovered

no enemy. (I) suppose that you all were very badly frightened at the late raid to Egypt. I was very uneasy about you, but consoled myself by believing that you would carry out my wishes and run out of the way. I was greatly in hopes that we would be ordered up there to defend you, for this is a fighting Brigade. and we would have given the enemy a tight race for it. In fact there is no better cavalry Brigade in the Army. We are all up for putting the negroes in even if it results in the entire amancipation of the whole race. We are willing to give up everything if necessary but our Independence, that we will never (think) of giving up, if we (ha)ve to arm every negroe man in (the) South. I see Congress is about to adopt this policy, and I think the sooner the better, for we want more men, and more men we must have and the question is whether we will allow the Enemy gradually to get possession of all the Negroes and arm them against us, or put them in our own army to fight for our Independence. I think the choice can't for a momen(t) be doubtfull even if it results (in the) emancipation and allow such ----- that all may be prepared for ----- . For my part I would rather see every negroe swept from our land of the South, than to go back under the hateful Yankey Government. Steve does finely and suits me very well. We sent Henry home ten days ago for a box of provisions and looked for him back in four days but have heard nothing from him. My paper is so inferior that I reckon you will be put up to read this, it seems to be full of hairs. Well how does dear little Rufus come on. You don't know my dearest Angel how happy I am in thinking and dreaming about you and my dear little boy, how(ever) much I (may) be perplexed by the duties of my office, however weary I may be from fatigue, hunger or thirst, if my thoughts suddenly soars to you, the idol of my life, I immediately become a new man, so that whenever I manifest any unusual or sudden degree of mirth, my men will say, "The Captain is thinking about Miss Hettie." I am now commanding two companys, and have my hands full. Darling as long as we (are) stationed here I think you might (write) to me twice a week, and I will do the same. Give my love to Mother and all the family. Kiss little Rufus for me. I reckon he can lisp some more words by this time. And now my Darling I commit you to the hands of the Almighty, and pray that he may defend you and my little boy from all harm. Direct your letters to Canoe Station Ala.

Your aff. and devoted

Housband,

Jas. D.

Qrs Co "I" Armisteads Brig at Blakely Ala

January 22d 1865

My dear Wife

What shall I say this morning? I have no news of importance, and I have not heard from you since the note you sent by Henry and it takes a letter only two days to come from West Point to this place. Don't you never think of your "Soldier boy" who only lives on thoughts and dreams of you, both by day and night: I have written this makes the fourth letter since I left, and have not received but one from you, but I will forgive you my dear One if you will sat down right away, and write me a long letter, and be more punctual in future. I have been quite sick for several days but feel better this morning. My health is not so good as it has been, and if ever I get in bad health again I will resign my commission. I am determined not to remain in the service unless I have good health, for it is hard enough for a well man, but intolerable to a sick man.

This is a very pleasant climate to spend the winter, it has never been very cold and there is allways a kind of balmyneess about the admostphere that renders it at times very pleasant. besides there is a great quantity of pine lightwood, and it makes such cheerful fires at night. It looks very pretty to see so many bright fires all over the camp. Well I don't think there will be any armies in the West next Spring. I think from present prospects both sides will concentrate all their forces in Virginia, and the war be ended where it began. I am in hopes they will send us up to protect the Mobile & Ohio Rail Road, for I don't want to stay this low down any longer than during the winter for it is not healthy down here only in winter. Well my deal Angel, how does our little boy get on. I often dream of walking in some pretty garden of flowers with my angel wife at my side, and our little boy chasing Butterflys before us. And then "her bright smiles will haunt me still." How has Mother Gotten. You said she was quite sick when you wrote. Give my love to her and all. Tell Cooty she and Little Rufy must write to me again. And write soon my deal Darling to your Affectionate and Loving Husband

Jas. D.

My dear little Sister &amp; Son

I enjoyed your Ground peas very much, and whenever I can get over to Mobile & have an opportunity of sending it I will send you all something nice. You must be mighty good, and Rufy must kiss his Mama for me.

Your aff Brother & Papa  
James D. Lynch

Nitre & Mining Bureau Selma Ala.

Office Engr. Supt & Inspt.

March 20th 1865

My dear Wife

We arrived here safely on Thursday evening. We had quite a tedious trip of it. On reaching the boat landing below Demopolis, The Boat had left us, and we had to lay over until the next day. The trains were again delayed between Demopolis & Selma & caused us to have to lay over here two days & nights. The girls paying twenty nine dollars apiece, per day. Consequently they spent all their money, and every dime of mine, and I had to sell my rations to get money to carry them to Montgomery which took sixty dollars just for their fare. They then left me only twenty dollars. I find it extremely hard to procure board and lodging. I borrowed a little cot and am sleeping in my office and eating at the Hotel for ten dollars a day but I have got me a boarding house for next month where I can eat for one hundred dollars a month and my rations, which they say is as cheap as it can be had in Town. Darling I wish you and Mother could send me some bed clothing such as a pillow sheet & quilt. I am anxious to make some arrangement by which I can live cheaper. Could I not have provisions sent down here from home, keep batchelors hall, and make Steve cook for me. It seems to me I could live cheaper even if I had to buy all my provisions. I just got here in time to go on duty. My office was ready the day I arrived. Kiney formerly of West Point is keeping the hotel, I am boarding at. My Darling if the Yanks comes down I want you & Mother to run out of their way. Take all the negroes & Stock and come down here. Well how do you and Mother and little Rufus get on by yourselves. I imagine you all have a fine time of it. You must not let little Rufus forget me. I dreamed last night that he was talking everything, was a large boy, and that I had not seen him before in several years. You must write *my dear one*, and let me know how you all are getting on, also what arrangement you think I can make about the provision question. Selma is full of Refugees. Give my love to Mother & Cooty. Kiss little Rufus for me.

Your Aff. & Devoted Husband

James D. Lynch

Vicksburg Miss Mar 23d 1875

My dear Queen

I came over here last Saturday and have been doing quite a good business yesterday and to day. Vicksburg is a much finer city than I had any idea, and is decidedly the gayest place I have seen since the War. The grand old Miss river, more than a mile wide, is not more than two hundred yards from the Hotel at which I am stopping and my window overlooks the landing where Splendid Streamers loaded with passengers are almost constantly arriving and departing. I have just been watching the splendid Steamer Belle of Yazoo which moved off from directly under my window just as the sun went down, with her decks crowded with Ladies and Gentlemen most of whom were kissing their hands and waving handkerchiefs to friends standing on the warf. This is indeed an interesting place. I do not know how many days more I shall remain here, but perhaps until the last of the week. My health is very good, but this is such a hilly place that it tires me very much to walk so much up an the steep streets and climbing long flights of steps some of the houses being situated above the tops of others. Several distinguished gentlemen have called on me at my hotel, but most of the time I was out and they would leave their cards. I hope that you are all well. Tell the children there is nothing I could send them from here which I could not send from Jackson. I will perhaps spend next week in New Orleans. When you write direct your letter to Jackson which will be forwarded to me as the papers where ever I go mention my arrival. Kiss all the children for their dear papa. Kiss little Virgil many times. How did you like the peace of poetry in the 7th no of the True Democrat headed "Tired Mothers",

Well good night to you all my dear ones.

James D.



## PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS OF

## ANDREW MALONE HILL\*

I have long intended to write out a sort of historical sketch of my service as a Confederate Soldier to leave to my children to which they might refer in after years as a proof of their decent from one whom had undergone the hardships and trials of a "Time that tried men's souls."

My father, Jacob Albert Hill, was born in Newberry County S. C. in 1820. Before he was grown the great question of Secession from the Union was being agitated in that State, and he wore what was called a Nullfier's button, as did all who favored Secession.

We moved from York County in the fall of 1858 to Walker Co. Ala. My father, true to his South Carolina blood, was a strong Secessionist whenever the issues that gave birth to the Confederate States of America were being discussed. So he was elected to the Alabama State Legislature in 1861 to represent the three counties of Walker, Winston, and Lawrence. My mother's people (Chapman) also of Newberry County were all, so far as I know, Secessionists. So much by way of beginning.

In the spring of 1861 Col. W. A. Hewlet, a lawyer of Jasper Alabama, organized the first company of soldiers from Walker County under the call for men for twelve month's service. Father and I both belonged to this Company, and he took an active part in helping to make this company up. but before this company was ready for service the number of men called for by the state for twelve month's service had been obtained, and a call for men for three year's service had

---

\* U. S. Adjutant General's records dated July 1, 1942, concerning the record of Capt. Hill show:

"The records show that Andrew M. Hill, name not found as Andrew Malone Hill, a private and sergeant of Company B, 16th Regiment Alabama Infantry, Confederate States Army, enlisted July 18, 1861 at Courtland. The company muster roll for March and April, 1862, last on file, shows him present.

"By order dated January 21, 1865, A. M. Hill, Lieutenant, company not stated, 16th Alabama Regiment was granted leave of absence for 24 days.

"The above named regiment was consolidated about April 9, 1865, with other Confederate States Army organizations and formed the 1st Regiment Alabama Infantry (Consolidated), Confederate States Army, and one A. M. Hill, a Captain of Company E, of that Regiment was paroled at Greensboro, North Carolina, May 1, 1865, in accordance with the terms of a Military Convention entered into on the 26th day of April, 1865, between General Joseph E. Johnston, commanding Confederate Army, and Major General W. T. Sherman, commanding United States army in North Carolina. Date of promotion to Captain not shown."

gone out. Father was now busy in his campaign for State Senator, and was away from home much of the time. Some of the boys of our first Company had gone sixty five miles to Courtland in Lawrence County and joined an organized company, and came back to Walker County after more men to fill the company to 125 men. On the 30th of July 1861, in company with six others, I left home (all of us on foot) to go to Courtland, satisfied that if we waited much longer the war would be over, and we would know nothing about it. We joined the company, already organized, under Captain F. A. Ashford and called the Mountain Rangers. This company was made up of men from around Courtland, Leighton, and Mt. Hope. The regiment was soon organized with W. B. Wood of Florence, Alabama as Colonel,—Harris as Lieutenant-Colonel,—Helvenstein as Major, and in September we boarded the cars at Courtland for Virginia. When we reached Knoxville Tennessee, the Union men in East Tennessee had torn up the railroad track around Strawberry Plains. We went into camp, and never did get to Virginia.

After we were in camp about two weeks, measles broke out in the regiment, and it looked as if there would not be enough well men to wait on the sick. Two or three of the boys with whom I had left home took the measles, and, as I had had the measles when a boy, I was sent to the hospital to act as nurse. After a stay of six weeks or two months as nurse, I was ordered with about half of the regiment (which included my company) to go to Cumberland Gap. The Surgeon in charge of the hospital was anxious for me to stay with him; but I was just as anxious for some experience before the War should close. (let me say here, that at this time very few people thought the trouble would last long).

I do not remember how many days we were in going from Knoxville to the Gap. Pushing over as hilly, rough country as I had ever seen up to that time, and the finest apple orchards that I have ever seen in life we arrived at the Gap. Was there only a short time, and left, going by Tazwell, to join the remainder of the regiment at Mill Springs. Here we had considerable force under the command of General Zollicoffer of Nashville, who was killed in the Battle of Fishing Creek fought, if I do not mistake, on the 19th of January 1862. In this battle we were badly worsted, a number of our men were killed, others with our camp equipments, wagon trains, etc were captured. We crossed the Cumberland River that night, and suffered almost as much from exposure and no rations as at any other time of the war. (We were not used to such things).

We joined the army under General Albert Sidney Johnston at Murfreesboro, I think, and continued retreating south until the spring of 1862 found us at Corinth, Mississippi. Here, just before the Battle of Shilo, I was given, by Capt. Ashford, the Fourth Sergeant's place, that officer having been detailed as Wagon Master of the Brigade. Gen. Wood being brother of our Col., another brother Major Henry Wood being quarter master. In the great battle of Shiloh our Regiment was in the front line and so completely were the enemy by surprise when we attacked them before sunrise on Sunday morning, that I remember distinctly seeing them run out of their tents with their clothes in their hands, actually had not gotten up until we were shooting at them. Sometime in the latter part of the day we had captured a Yankee Surgeon and I was ordered to take charge of him and carry him to the field Hospital where the wounded were all being carried, he was set to work at once on his own men, I was ordered by the Surgeon in charge to go to waiting on the wounded, giving water etc. I did not know then but what he had the authority to keep me there and I was not with the Regiment in Monday's fight and retreat. I had been at the field Hospital but a short time when who should come but Father, he had come from home on a visit, and hearing of the great battle, had come from Corinth and found me. Every thing that could walk was ordered to make his way back to Corinth and here I rejoined the Regiment, after a deal of fighting and hardships around Corinth we fell back down the M. & O. railroad where we remained until we were ordered to board the cars for Chattanooga, and the Campaign into Ky., General Bragg who had been placed in command of the army was on, this was the later part of summer. In the fall I shared the fate of a soldier, in all the tramp till Perryville where our Regiment was put in support of the battle, and as our men drove the enemy all the evening we were not in the line of action, to a strong position from which the enemies had been driven, and half a mile at our best speed we followed, it proved that others had been ordered to the same position and for an hour or more the earth trembled with the roar of the twelve pieces of artillery that were pouring their concentrated fire upon retreating forces, it seemed as if the commanders expected the enemy to try to retake the position as there were three lines of infantry in support of the artillery. We left Ky. by way of Cumberland Gap to Knoxville, from which point we went to Murfreesboro by rail road, where after considerable skirmishing and maneuvering of the forces, the battle of Murfreesboro or Stone River, as the Yankees called it, was fought on the last days of December. This was the only general battle that I was not in during the war, during the skirmishing before the battle we

were on the left wing at Triune, some distance from Murfreesboro, and our orders were to hold a skirmish line as long as possible, then retreat in order to draw the enemy away from Nashville and during one of these retreats across the open field I attempted to jump a big ditch or gully but fell into a hole of water, I did not loose any time in getting out for the Yankees were coming, and I had no hankering for prison life, and though I was wet we fought and retreated till late in the evening when we were ordered to join the main army at Murfreesboro. I dried as best I could by rail fire but slept all night in those clothes and the next morning I had such a pain in my left hip I could not keep with the marching went to the Dr. and told him my condition, he ordered me to stay with the ambulance so I missed this engagement, after the battle which seemed a kind of drawn engagement, we fell back to Wartrace the main body of the army to Tullahoma where we wintered. When activities began in the spring of '63 we were gradually forced back by superior numbers to Chattanooga, and, after much marching and skirmish fighting the enemy, finally crossed the Tenn. river and in September came the great battle of Chicamauga where but for the right wing of the enemy general Thomas the route would have been complete, on Sunday about twelve o'clock the entire left wing of Rosencranz's army being completely routed from their position and retreating in great disorder to Chattanooga. During the fearful engagement on Sunday morning I was hit on the point of the left shoulder while lying down by a piece of shell that had burst over us and but for my blanket which folded and belted over the shoulder I would have been seriously hurt, as it was the blanket protected me through I could not get my arm up to a level for a week or ten days. Among others we lost our first Lt. I. C. Madding, and I find this statement in my diary kept at that time our Regiment came out of the battle the fifty one privates, eight non commissioned and nine commissioned officers showing our fearful loss, yet I have often thought since that time that if our generals had ordered us at once to follow the enemy and throw us in the rear of their right wing, who fought till nearly night, and then withdrew in good order, that we might have captured them, for rejoicing as we were over the victory, the men would have attempted almost the impossible, but a private soldier knows only what he sees, and can have only an indefinite idea of what should be done. In a few days the army moves gradually toward Chattanooga where the enemy is, and occupy Missionary Ridge where the rounds of picket duty, the scarcity of rations, and exposure causes considerable grumbling, a soldier's privilege that he always uses. Longstreet has been detached and sent against Knoxville, where considerable force of the enemy is located. This weakens



our line so that the center is only a skirmish line, though the position is a very strong one, but the enemy was so reinforced with troops from Vicksburg and getting the weak points in our line from occasional deserters that in December they attack in such force that our center is broken and almost a route follows. Cleburns division is on the extreme right and our Brigade on the right of the division, the enemy's line does not reach us, though we witness the change made and repulsed by Govans Ark. Brigade, and our division is put in to cover the retreat to Dalton, and some of the hardest fighting falls to us with wading rivers and exposure till we reached Tunnel Hill, where we go into winter quarters. At one time near Resaca there were one thousand wagons parked in a large field just in rear of our line, ready to cut the teams loose and fire the whole, if our division had failed to hold it's position, but late in the evening they began to drive out and were saved. After the battle of Chickamauga where we lost our first Lt., our Captain (Ashford) was promoted to major, making two vacancies for commissions and the boys elected myself as 2nd Lt. and W. J. Wasson third our former second Lt. going to Captain, and third to first Lt., our commissions dating back to Chickamauga, just after receiving my commission Father came up to Tunnel Hill on a visit, and we go home together after an absence of nearly two and a half years, it is needless to add that I was proud to return to my Mother as second LT. in a company into which I had gone with only a few acquaintances, and chosen to the place by the boys with whom I had served.

'64 opens up with myself and Father on our way home as above stated and for a few short days I enjoy social privileges rare and pleasant, returning to Tunnel Hill I found everything much as I had left it, the boys all housed up and fairly comfortable, and furloughs being granted in goodly numbers to those longest away from home. In February there was a considerable force of the enemy came out as if to feel of our strength and Clayton's Brigade and another division had a sharp fight near our old camps, and my diary for the 26th of February has this circumstance noted, an old man with his wife and daughter was sent south through our lines, and nearly all of our Regiment knew them as they washed and done many terms for some of the men of the Regiment, but on being sent South the Yankees had literally burned and killed everything they had except the clothes they had on, one of the men of the Regiment fell in with them, carried them through the Brigade telling the circumstance and taking up a collection for them and in about two hours had raised twenty-five hundred dollars.

Our camp is changed from Tunnel Hill to Dalton and I am re-

lieved of guard duty, picket and drill. I fill up the time till the first of May, when everything is in motion and the beginning of the campaign which ended in the capture of Atlanta. Our time was taken up with marching, building breast works, and figuring on rebuilding some portion of the lines almost everyday. Our first loss of men from our company came on the 19th of June. We being on Picket duty are ordinarily out in front of the line while the Regiment is some 200 yards to our rear was building breast works. This was the beginning of the New Line as it was called by the army. Well, the enemy advances and during the evening reinforced their picket line three times, trying to drive us from position, but we hold, shooting over forty rounds of ammunition to the man, but we loose three of our best men, dying of wounds in the Hospital, as hot a contest as I was ever in, the Yankees seemed to think they were fighting cavalry as we distinctly heard the commanding officer at one time say "Charge them boys, charge them it's nothing but cavalry," when Old Jim Martin of our company, who was only a few feet from me, jumped high as he could, popped his feet together and shouted back "yes, come up on here this is Cleburns cavalry," but they never came, we held the line till night, at one time I went along the line to see how all were, and on the extreme left of the company were two of the boys Porter Hughston and Monroe Stevenson taking it time about getting behind a tree to load, and then step out and woe to the Yankee that moved or shook a bush, it was like squirrel hunting. While around Atlanta later on Doc Sherer, one of the Walker county boys was hit by a spent ball fairly in the top of his head, we were all lying as close to the ground as we could get, and crowded so close that I distinctly felt him shiver when hit, and asked him if he was hurt much, he said "No I believe not" though the blood ran down on his face, At Jonesboro below Atlanta, the Yankees by sheer force of numbers over powered and captured Govans Ark. Brigade, and in a day or so after I met Bob Neely with whom I had gone to school when a boy in South Carolina but who had moved to Ark. and was in that Brigade, and asked him how it was that he was not captured with the rest, he replied, "I beat them by hard running," for which he was noted when at school. About the middle of September we leave the enemy at and near Atlanta, and begin the movement which finally carries us to Tenn., tearing up the rail road at several points as we made our way by Rome, Georgia and into Alabama. As we get into Lawrence county all three day furloughs and go by their homes, as it is too far for us to walk for such a short time, we go home with Mt. Hope boys and spend our time there. Brother John has come of from home, contrary to my advice, and is now with the command fall-



ing in with the Regiment near Courtland. We march on toward Tuscumbia where we are to cross the Tenn. River. This brings us up to about the first of November '64, remaining around Tuscumbia and Florence for two or three weeks, we finally took the road toward Nashville, finding the enemy in force at Columbia, we cross Duck river by a flank movement and strike them again at Spring Hill. Our division attack them at once driving them from position killing some and capturing others, and the whole corps is put into line and anxiously wait the order to advance, but it never comes, and here was made one of the worst blunders of the war, our line of battle did not cross the Columbia and Franklin Pike, but only reached near enough to it to hear the enemy all night retreating from Columbia, when if the advantage of the evening had been pushed we had them already cut off. But they are allowed to escape and the next day the 30th of November, they cut us to pieces at Franklin as we fought through an open field and they behind breast works.

In doing some research in the work in the summer of '39 I came across and copied the following extract, which supports what my father referred to in the last paragraph above.

I have often heard my father tell of this incident when relating his army experiences.

Eldorado, Texas.

June 17/42.

Hon Curator

Department of History and Archives.

Montgomery, Ala.

Dear Sir;—

Some time ago I received a letter from my Son, Col. Jim Dan Hill containing the legislative record of Rev. James A. Hill; (There is an error in the name. His full name was Jacob Albert Hill) and in his letter he sent me the record you have, and requested that I write you and make some corrections, and give later records that you do not have. I am not sure that I know just what you would desire, but I will do the best I can in the matter.

I am the last survivor of our family of nine children. My Father was born in Newberry district, South Carolina, and in the Fall of 1858 moved from York County, South Carolina to Walker Ala. During his period of service in the Ala. Legislature he served as Captain of the Home Guard when at his home in Jasper. His strong views as to the citizens duty to his government made him many enemies in North Ala. where according to his views many were not as patriotic as was desirable. I have heard him say that he had to lead in the arrest of at least two men who were hanged, and quite a few others were sent to the war under compulsion by his efforts. Of course this made enemies, his life was repeatedly threatened, and some near neighbors were actually killed as a result of these enmities as the war drew to a close. On account of these threats he moved to Tuscaloosa, Ala. just before his surrender at Appomattox. Later he moved to Lauderdale Springs, and still later to Moscow, in Kemper Co. From Kemper Co. we moved to Texas in 1876, most of the time we lived near Grapeland, in Houston Co. Texas. In 1886 my Mother having died, he returned to South Carolina; married a widow named Sanders, and died there and was buried at Waxhaw Church, near the town of Waxhaw in Union Co. North Carolina.

I suppose this will be all and perhaps more that you need for your records. If there is anything further that you might wish to clear up I will be only too willing to be of any assistance that I can.

Our Son, Col. Jim Dan Hill says no definite notice was found in the short time he had there of any war record of Capt. A. M. Hill. My oldest Brother. He asked that I procure as much of his record from his family as possible, and forward it to you. His full name was Andrew Malone Hill. He kept a diary during much of the war, but in some unaccountable way it has disappeared tho much treasured, and supposedly closely guarded by his children. This Brother was born in South Carolina in 1842. I being born twenty years later he was away from our home and I have no recollection of seeing him till I was about seven years old. We were never thrown together in much real intimacy, tho I have talked with him many times, I learned little of the civil war from him as he did not speak of it freely unless directly asked, and some things like the death of our Brother, John Paul Hill who was killed at the second line of breastworks at the battle of Franklin in Tenn. I never remember to have heard him speak at all.

I also know that he was made Captain, for I have heard my Father Jacob Albert Hill repeatedly speak of it. Andrew Malone however would never allow himself to be called Captain, tho many men I have known who had no claim to the title whatever, took much pleasure in being addressed as such. I do not remember with certainty but I think my brother Andrew Malone said at the only time he ever mentioned it, that the honor came to near to the end of the war that he never received the commission papers, and so never felt that he was really entitled to the honor.

I am sending you rather voluminous papers that I have received from my Nephew. You will understand them and use them yourself, or send them to the proper place where they be wanted for record. I do ask that these papers be preserved and returned to me when they have served their purpose.

Andrew Malone Hill married a Miss Emma Barbour, daughter of a Methodist Minister in Tuscaloosa, Ala. Till 1874 they lived in Miss. In the fall of 1874 they moved to Texas. He died at Normangee Texas on June 9th, 1916. During his later years he was regularly ordained Missionary Preacher. If I am not badly mistaken he was made *Captain of Company E. of the 45th Ala. Reg.*

Hoping that these papers may be of some use to you and with best wishes I am

Respt. Yours,

D. C. Hill.

## CLARKE COUNTY SALT WORKS

## A Discussion of the Salt Mountain Operation

By DR. T. J. KROUSE, Suggsville

Prepared for the Clarke County centennial exercises held at Grove Hill,

June 19, 1913\*

Among the rugged hills of east Clark Co., there flows a creek with sandy bottom and low bank, the head of which begins among the pine hills several miles east of the Tom Bigbee River. As this little stream meanders down the valley westward towards the river, & about two and one half miles from its mouth, at what was then known as the Jackson & Fork public road there is a quite a pretty valley lying mostly on the south side of the creek, extending south some few hundred yards and jutting abruptly against a very high steep hill which was called Salt Mt. Around the foot of this Salt Mt. and extending all over the valley to the creek was located, what was called, "Central Salt Works," six miles south of Jackson. This creek was called "Salt Creek" from my earliest recollections.

While there was no perceptible taste of salt in the creek water, there were, at the foot of the Salt Mt., little springs or oozings that were brackish, and cattle from the surrounding county would frequent these places daily and drink and lick the brackish oozings. All this attracted the attention of the people to the fact that there was salt there but in what quantity no one had any idea and did not give the matter much thought until after the "Civil War" began, and the supply of salt was nearly exhausted and the price became quite an object. People through the country would dig the dirt-floors of their smoke-houses and drip it through hoppers, boiling the drippings to make salt.

---

\* This paper which was read by Dr. Krouse, in 1913, stimulated T. L. Head, of Clarke County, to make a thorough study of the Confederate operations along the Tombigbee River during the period of 1862-1865, in the effort to evaporate salt from the artesian water flowing from wells in that area. Prof. Head's paper which was never published but which is filed in the Department of Archives and History, has stimulated considerable research and a more extensive paper prepared by Prof. T. B. Pearson, of Chatom, and read at the 1958 meeting of the Alabama Historical Association. The official records of the Confederate operations are filed in the Military Records Division of the Department of Archives. These papers form a valuable contribution to the history of the Quartermaster records of the Alabama Confederate archives.

Those of us living near the "Salt Works" began making our own salt on very crude furnaces, which were made of sand rock stuck together with clay mud and wash pots for salt keetles using any old stack pipes for chimneys. My nearest neighbor, Mr. J. L. Jeffries & my oldest brother, Adrian, I think, put up the first furnace and made salt for their own use, which was only a few bushels a day. Afterwards they enlarged their furnaces and made the first salt for sale to the neighbors.

Soon people began to come from a distance to buy, and the demand was greater than the supply.

Mr. J. L. Jeffries, who owned a part of the land included in the Salt Works, put up what we considered, a large furnace, consisting of 8 or 10 washpots and 3 or 4 large kettles, which he bought through the neighborhood; he then made from 8 to 10 bu. of salt a day. A few other like furnaces were put up during the first year.

Any one felt at liberty to go any where near Salt Mt. and put up a furnace to make salt for their own use; Mr. J. F. Singleton, who owned a greater part of the land where salt was found, made no objections.

In a year or two salt became so scarce and the price so high that things changed very much.

Two men, Mr. Jonathan English and a Mr. Dennis from Monroe Co. came over and leased all of Mr. Jas. F. Singleton's interest for a number of years, paying very little for it. It was only a short time after this that any one wanting to make salt had to do it under a lease.

These parties did business under the name of Dennis & English and would lease to other parties a piece of ground large enough to put up a furnace and dig a well 8 to 10 ft. square and 20 to 30 ft. deep, which was curbed with 2 x 12 in. planks to prevent caving, and to have a large reservoir for holding a plenty of water, as it required many thousand gallons of water a day to keep a furnace running, such as were then used.

On the opposite side of Salt Creek from Salt Mt. was quite a steep hill with perpendicular bluff on the west side 8 to 10 ft. high of white lime rock, which proved to be very necessary in the construction of furnaces and chimneys for instead of the little crude furnaces at



the first, large ones, 30 to 40 ft. long with chimneys about the same height were put up made from this white lime rock, sawed out in blocks of various sizes and lengths, instead of using wash pots most furnaces had large, flat bottom kettles holding about 100 gal. which were ordered from a foundry; several of which were used on the front of a furnace, and beyond these a double row of smaller kettlers, extending to the chimney were used and in the last 2 or 3, next to the chimney is where the salt was granulated.

After using the 100 gal. kettles for some time it was found that the boiling capacity was not sufficient to justify the amount of fuel used, which became quite an item and was the most expensive thing in salt making; so to remedy that most of the large furnaces bought from a foundry, shallow pans about 6 ft. long and 3 ft. wide and 10 in. deep in the center and about 5 in. deep at the ends; 5 or 6 of these pans were constructed with grates and doors, would boil from one end to the other and could make from 25 to 35 bu. of salt a day, according to the per ct. of salt in the water.

All work stopped on Saturday nights at 12 and fired up on Sunday nights at 12. No work done on Sunday.

One great obstacle to contend with was fresh water seeping in the deep wells, although some of the wells had double curbing between which clay would be packed, which would obviate the trouble to some extent.

The deeper the well, as a general thing, the stronger was the water, and soon all the large salt makers had a bored well put down in their large dug wells which made a very great difference in the strength of the water and quite an increase in the amount of salt made. The bored wells were about 7 inches in diameter and from 90 to 125 ft. deep. I did not hear of any being bored deeper and I do not know why, unless well boring was something new in this country, and that was as deep as they could bore.

There was a great deal of gas emanating from these bored wells and they could be easily located in the dug wells by the continuous bubbling even when water was 10 or 15 ft. deep.

The furnaces were built on the highest points in the creek bottom to be above the overflow of the creek, which often happened during the rainy seasons; some times it would get so high as to stop all salt making.

The furnaces were from 50 to 250 ft. from the wells and high scaffolds were built over every well to carry the water to the furnaces when pumped into troughs.

The pumps were home made of long, green pine sapplings bored with about an 3 in. auger and made in joints from 10 to 15 ft. long, requiring from 2 to 3 joints to make a pump these joints were fastened to each other and made air tight and when properly put up would throw a large stream of water.

It required 2 sets of hands to keep a furnace running day and night, each set working 6 hours and then off 6 hours.

It took 3 hands beside the pumper, one fireman and 2 dippers, one on each side of the furnace to keep the kettles filled, dipping from the front to the kettles where the salt granulated. The grains of salt would form on the top of the water and when thick enough would drop to the bottom of the kettle which was dipped out when the quantity was sufficient and put in baskets that were resting on rods over the back kettle.

The salt was left in the baskets 'till all the water had dripped, then it was taken to the salt house and emptied into a large salt box, holding from 30 to 50 bu. of salt.

The salt was usually dry when put in these boxes, was very fine and white, as pretty as any table salt. It was then ready for the market, was usually put up in 2 bu. sacks and at one time sold for \$55.00 a bu. delivered at the furnace. A great deal of salt was sold to parties who came to the Salt Works in wagons loaded with all sorts of commodities, from eggs to a bbl. of flour which they sold or traded for salt. I think any thing produced in the State could be bought there. It was thought

that about 2000 people were at work at the Salt Works and in the surrounding country where the wood was gotten to run the furnaces.

It took 4 or 5 good men a day to cut the wood and 2 or 3 good teams, 4 large mules each to haul enough for a large furnace, according to the distance. All pine timber within 3 or 4 miles, that could be bought was cut and used.

Most of the wood was gotten between the Salt Works and Jackson on those rocky hills which abounded in fine timber. Parties owning pine timbers got fancy prices for it. At first only long leaf pine was cut but toward the last any kind of pine was used and some times hard wood.

Central Salt Works was not exempt from the great evil of today, there was a great deal of strong drink sold and used, and I understand that gambling was carried on extensively. There were 3 Salt Works in Clark Co. that I visited. The "Upper Salt Works, about 6 miles north of Jackson, "Central Salt Works" 6 miles South and the "Lower Salt Workers" still 6 miles farther south. The Upper & Lower Salt Works belonged to the State, they were ceded to the State by the United States about 1819 and were leased to parties by the State most of the time during the Civil War.

While Marshal & Zimmerman were digging a well at the Central Works, at a depth of about 40 ft. they found the leg bone and a tooth of some immense animal which was kept on exhibition at Claiborne, Monroe Co. Ala., for several years. I heard, that it was afterwards sent to Washington City to "Uncle Sam."

While the Salt Works were in full operation the Federal troops took "Spanish Fort" and marched up through Baldwin Co. on the south side of the Alabama river then up the river to Claiborne and, other points where they could cross the river and come down in Clark Co. to the Salt Works. The "Central Works" were deserted in a few hours and where there had been so much hustle and bustle the day before there was desolation, and while none of the troops came down in this

section work there was never resumed. The Ala. River was very full while the troops were in Baldwin Co., 15 or 20 miles off, was what prevented them reaching the Salt Works and destroying them. It was only a short time after when Gen. Lee surrendered and it was not necessary for the troops to come and destroy the Works.

## LAFAYETTE ARTILLERY BOOK

Summerfield, Ala., May 23, 1846.\*

Page 1.

## Company Courts Martial.

The Capt. detailed the following officers to constitute a Court for the trial of defaulters on the 2nd of May, 1846. (Viz).

1st Lieut.—John Johnson, President.

2nd do.—C. B. Sturdevant.

3rd. Lieut.—E. P. Shulenberger.

## DEFAULTERS:

1st.—G. A. B. Walker—Excuse did not recollect the muster untill hearing the drum & his uniform in Selma Fined. Issued on 7th Apr. 47 ----- \$3.00.

2nd.—L. J. Moore—Excuse sick unable to muster. Excused.

3rd.—H. M. Fuller—Excuse did not know of the muster. Exsused.

4th.—P. P. Jackson—had no horse to ride. Fined. \$1.50. Issued on 7th Apr. 47. Rec'd of above fine .50 Paid in full ----- \$1.00

5th.—G. W. Tate—Excuse none. Fined \$3.00. Compromised by paying \$1.50 the 28th May, 1846. Reduced to \$1.50.

6th.—E. Oden—Excuse none Fined \$1.50. Issued 7th Apr. 47.

Signed John Johnson, President.

Approved May 26, 1846. R. A. L. M. McCurdy, Capt.

Page 2.

Summerfield, Ala. June 2, 1846.

The Capt. detailed the following Officers to constitute a Company court Martial for the trial of defaulters at Company Muster on the 7th of Nov. 1846. (Viz)

John Johnson, 1st Lieut.

C. B. Sturdevant, 2nd Lieut.

E. P. Shulenberger, 3rd Lieut.

## DEFAULTERS:

\* The minute book of the LaFayette Artillery, a local militia company with headquarters at Summerfield, was copied by Margaret S. Parrish, at Selma, May 18, 1933, who was instrumental in having a copy sent to the Department of Archives and History. It is used here exactly as set out in the book and no editing of the contents has been attempted.

John Johnson—Was serving as a regular Juror in Cahawba that week & was not dismissed. Excused.

A. R. Rembert—Served 7 years in the Selma Rangers and Lafayette Artillery. Excused.

I. W. Betheny—Was a witness to Cahawba there that day. Excused.

B. I. Harrison—Capt. R. A. L. McCurdy was sworn & says that he believes from statements made by B. I. Harrison that his absence was in consequence of the bad helth of his mother, And that he was sent for this day for same cause which prevents his attendance. Excused.

L. J. Moore—had the chills was sick that day. Excused.

I. A. Lawrence—Was not able to do duty in consequence of Rheumatism & served 7 years in the Selma Rangers & Lafayette Artillery. Excused.

W. T. C. King—fined by default \$2.00. Issued on 7th Apr. 47. Cr. by cash Mar. 18, 1848 \$2.00

G. A. B. Walker—Was offecially ingaged being Post Master could not attend. Excused.

Ira Sturdevant—Fined by default \$2.00 Issued on 7th Apr. 47 Apr. 24, 1848. Settled by Team for halling the gun.

### Page 3.

Summerfield, Ala. Brot from the old Book.

1843.

Dec. 2nd.—John B Fuller fined for failing to do duty on the 4th Nove.  
—43.—\$3.00

1844

March 9th—John B. Fuller fined for failing to do duty on the 11th Feby.—44.—\$1.50

Dec. 28th—H. M. Fuller fined for failing to do duty on the 6th of Nov.  
—44—\$1.50

1845.

Jany. 25—H. M. Fuller fined for failing to do duty on the 28th Dec.—  
44.—\$1.50.

May 10—H. M. Fuller fined for failing to do duty on the 25 of Jany.  
45—\$1.50.



1846.

May 2—H. M. Fuller fined for failing the 14th March 46—\$2.00

H. M. Fuller Tax for Cannon House—\$2.00

Swore before a Justice of the Piece that he was out of the County at that time.

1845.

May 10.—John Kennedy fined for failing to do duty th 29 March—45—\$1.50.

Jany. 25—John Kennedy fined for dirty musket—.25

June 14th.—John Kennedy fined for dirty musket—.50.

Paid Nov. 6th, 1847.

1845.

May 10.—Thomas Melton fined for failing to do duty on the 25th of Jany—45.—\$3.00

May 10.—Thomas Melton fined for failing to do duty on the 28th of March—45—\$3.00

Cr. by Cash March 18, 1848.

1845.

Jany 25th—G. A. B. Walker fined not uniformed—\$2.00

May 10—G. A. B. Walker fined for failing to do duty on the 26th of Aprile—45.—\$3.00, Tax for Cannon House—\$2.00, Initiation fee—\$1.50.

Continued to page 5.

Page 4.

Summerfield, Ala. Jan. 2nd. 1847.

Defaulters:

E. R. Childers—Issued on 7th Apr.—47. Fined by default—\$2.00  
Cr. by Cash March 18th, 1848—\$2.00

A. G. Jorden—Issued on Apr. 7-47. Fined by default—\$2.00. Paid by uniform two dollars and fine—\$3.50.

Jas. S. Moore—Lieut. Johnson was sworne and says that Moore was in Cahawba that day & understood him to be a witness Excused.

George W Tate—Issued on the 7th Apr. 47. Fined by default—\$2.50. Cr. by Cash March 18th, 1848—\$2.50.

H. W. Arterberry—Was out of the County about 125 miles at that time. Excused.

Elias Oden—Issued on 7th Apr. 47. Fined by default—\$2.00. Released by Company.

H. M. Fuller—Dirty Musket—.25

Thos. Summers—no Belt—\$2.00. Cr. by Cash March 18, 1848—\$2.00.

Signed John Johnson, President  
Company Court Martial.

Page 5

Members detailed to appraise Uniforms: Jan. 2nd. 1847.

B. I. Harrison  
W. J. McRee  
W. H. Greene

A. G. Jordons Uniform -----	\$4.00	\$3.50.
John Billups Coat -----	2.50.	
J. M. Colemans Coat given to Campany -----	3.00	
M. S. Winbushs Coat Ira Sturdevant (A line drawn through this last entry and "Mistake" written after)		

1845—Continued from page 3. (This is the written notation in the middle of page 5)

June 14th—Jas. S. Moore fined for failing to do duty May 31,—45—\$3.00

Oct. 18—Jas. S. Moore fined for failing to do duty the 4th & 5th July  
—\$3.00 each 6.00

1846.

Mar. 14th—Jas. S. Moore fined for failing to do duty the 18 Oct.—45—  
1.50

\$10.50.

Settled by Cash in full Nov. 6th 1847.

1846.

March 14th.—Ira Sturdevant fined for failing to do duty the 18th

Oct.— 45 -----	\$1.50.
Ira Sturdevant Tax for Cannon House -----	2.00
Ira Sturdevant for John Billups Tax same -----	2.00

Ira Sturdevant for not having Cartridges the 24th Aprile. .25

5.75

Paid by use of Team halling Cannon.

1846

March 14th—Wm. Barber fined for failing to do duty the 18th Oct.—  
45—\$1.50.

May 2nd—Wm. Barber fined for failing to do duty 14th March—46—  
\$1.50

Page 6.

Summerfield, Ala.

1847

Aprile 3rd

The following officers held a Company Court Martial for the  
trial of defaulters on the 6th of February (viz)

First Lieut. John Johnson

Second Lieut. C. B. Sturdivant

Third Lieut. E. P. Shulenberger

Issued Nov. 9th, 1847

L. I. Moore—Fined by default ----- \$2.00  
Cr. by Cash March 18th, 1848 ----- \$2.00

G. W. C. King—Fined by default ----- \$3.00  
Cr. by Cash March 18th, 1848 ----- \$2.00

G. W. Tate—Fined by default ----- \$2.00  
Cr. by cash March 18th, 1848 ----- \$2.00

H. W. Arterberry—Fined by default ----- \$2.00

R. E. Orsburn—Sick confined to bed ----- excused

Signed John Johnson President of C. M.

P. P. Jackson—fined for dirty musket ----- 50c  
paid ----- 50c

G. W. Overton—fined for dirty musket ----- 50c  
paid ----- 50c

W. W. Hill—fined for dirty musket ----- 50c  
paid ----- 50c

I. S. Moore—fined for dirty musket ----- 50c

Thomas Summers—on parade without a belt fined ----- \$2.00

Nov. 6

The following officers were Detailed to hold a Company Court Martial with Capt. R. A. L. McCurdy (Viz)

- Lieut. John Johnson
- Lieut. Shulenberger

Defaulters on the 3rd of July, 1847:

W. H. Greene—Excuse was sick had asked Dr. Armstrong's advice who said he did not think it proper for me to do duty—Excused

Carried to page 8 (this is the written notation at the bottom of page 6)

Page 7

Summerfield Aprile 24th, 1847

An election being held this day for Company Officers to command the Lafayette Artilery which election was held in the place of the first saturday in May which was taken up by a Regimental review. (This is the result of said election)

- For Capt R. A. L. McCurdy 22 to 6 McCurdy elected
- For First Lieut. J. Johnson 22 to 3 Johnson elected
- For 2nd Lieut. C. B. Sturdivant 14 to 9 Sturdivant elected
- For 3rd Lieut. E. P. Shulenberger 19 to 6 E. P. Shulenberger elected

Signed: George A. B. Walker

- R. L. Armstrong
- I. W. Bethany

Managers

Apr. 23rd

Lafayette Artilery to I. A. Lawrence Dr for freight on muskets & flag -----	\$33.19
Paid by -----	10.00
	-----
	\$23.19
Cr. By Cash Nov. 6th 1847—\$5.00	
\$5.00	
Cr. By Cash in full March 18th, 1848 -----	\$23.19
Paid by Fira Facious	

Apr. 23rd

Lafayette Artillery to A. R. Rembert Dr.

To balance on Caps for the Company 7.37½

Apr. 23rd

Lafayette Artillery For Music up to this date

To Irvins and Russells boys ----- \$7.00

Settled Nov. 6th, 1847 ----- 7.00

Apr. 23rd

John Johnson L. A. Company Dr.

To Money recd. per fines etc. ----- \$128.70

Apr. 23rd Credit by Cash paid out for company ----- \$128.70

Apr. 24

Lafayette Artillery to Ira Sturdivant Dr. for ballance on  
uniform for musicians -----

\$1.50

Page 8.

1847 Summerfield Ala.

Nov. 6th

E. E. Sellers—Fined by Default ----- \$2.00

Thomas Melton—Did not know of the muster and was sick ---- Excused

I. M. Sherrer—Did not know of the muster on the 3rd of July -- Excused

George W. Overton—Borrowed mule & got as far as Mr.

Sturdivant's horse lot and could not get any farther

for fear of geting cripled ----- Excused

Ishued this the 29th Feby. 1848

L. I. Moore—Fined by Default ----- \$2.00

Cr. by cash March 18th, 1847 ----- \$2.00

P. P. Jackson—Fined by Default ----- \$2.00

Cr. by cash March 18th, 1848 ----- \$2.00

W. T. C. King—Fined by default ----- \$2.00

Cr. by cash March 18th, 1848 ----- \$2.00

Geo. A. B. Walker—Fined by default ----- \$2.00

Carried to page 10

Page 9

Summerfield, Alabama brot from old Book	
Elias Oden initiation fee	\$1.50 by uniform
H. W. Arterberry initiation fee	1.50
B. H. Gilliam initiation fee part	1.00
1846	
March 14th	
P. P. Jackson to L. A. Dr.	
To uniform	\$5.00
May 23rd—E. Jackson to L. A. Dr.	
To cap \$5.00 roses 2/	\$5.25
May 26th The Lafayette Artilery	
To John W. Jones Dr.	
To taking cannon to Selma	4.00
1847 January 2nd to two mules and driver	\$2.00
1847	
March 1st	
W. H. Greene—To the Lafayette Artilery Dr.	
To note H. W. Arterberry	\$10.00
Cr. by cleaning muskets	\$10.00

Page 10

1847	Summerfield Alabama
Nov. 6th—E. R. Childers—The Capt. stated on Oath that he was one of the committee of the cellebration on that day of which the Company partook	Excused
Jas. S. Moore—Fined by default	\$2.00
George W. Tate—Fined by default	3.00
Cr. by cash March 18th	\$3.00
W. A. Tarrant—Fined by default	\$2.00
Paid	\$2.00
D. O. White—Fined by default	\$2.00
Cr. by cash March 18th	2.00

R. A. L. McCurdy President

John Johnson

E. P. Shulenberger



## Page 11

## Summerfield Ala—Lafayette Artillery

1847

Nov. 6th—To Boy Sam for Musick	\$2.00
Nov. 6th—To Boy July for Musick	1.50
Nov. 6th—To Boy York for Musick	.50c
	-----
	\$7.50
March 4th—paid by R. A. L. McCury	\$7.50

1847

Nov. 6th—To John Willis—For Cap & Belt	\$1.12½
Nov. 6th—To Jas. A. Blair—Cap	1.50
Nov. 6th—To Jas. A. Woods—Cap & Belt	1.62½

1848

Jan. 3rd—To George W. Overton, Dr.

To one Dollar for James A. Blair for cap	1.00
Feby—Paid by R. A. L. McCurdy by 2 plumes at 55c each	1.10

1847 Sumerfield Alabama

## Page 12

Nov. 6th—At an Election held by the members of the Lafayette Artillery  
Dr. R. L. Armstrong, Samuel Feldhaim & E. P. Shulenberger  
Managers

The votes were

For R. L. Armstrong	11
For S. Feldhaim	3
For W. H. Green	3
For Jas. Clark	1
For W. Hill	1
For B. I. Harrison	1

R. L. Armstrong was duly elected second Lieut in said  
Company

Signed R. L. Armstrong

Samuel Feldhaim

E. P. Shulenberger Managers

Nov. 6th—At a meeting of the Lafayette Artillery Company held at Summerfield on the 6th of Nov. 1847 for the purpose of changing the uniforms of said company etc.

On the motion of Dr. A. L. Lawrence seconded by John Johnson that the uniform of the company be changed and carried

Changing Twenty votes

No change Three votes

On Motion of Dr. A. J. Lawrence seconded by G. W. Overton it was moved and unanimously adopted that the uniform Which Capt. R. A. L. McCurdy has is and shall hereafter be the uniform of the Company

Page 13

1847 Summerfield Alabama

Nov. 6th—On motion of H. M. Fuller seconded by Dr. A. J. Lawrence it was moved that the white pants be done away with and the dark pants be worne both summer and winter Which was carried by a large majority

On motion made by J. S. Moore seconded by A. J. Lawrence it was moved that the present plooms be done away with & pompoons be adopted instead thereof which was carried by 21 to 2

On motion of E. P. Shulenberger seconded by J. S. Moore it was moved that the present Cartridge Boxes and straps be done away with and small ones percured in their stead and the Box & Bayonet scabbord be attached to the Belt which was carried by a unanimous vote.

On motion of E. P. Shulenberger seconded by several it was moved and unanimously adopted that white webbing be used for Belts

R. A. L. McCurdy Chairman

April 8th—On motion made and seconded a portion of the above relative to the pants was reconsidered and white pants was again adopted for summer uniforms by vote of the company.

R. A. L. McCurdy

## Summerfield Alabama

Page 15

1848

Feby. 5th—At a Company Court Martial held by the following officers  
(V. Z)

Capt. R. A. L. McCurdy  
1st Lieut. John Johnson  
2nd Lieut C. B. Sturdivant

The following members were tried for failing to do duty on the  
6th day of Nov. 1847

Issued Feb. 29th, 1848

L. J. Moore—Fined by default	\$2.00
Credit by cash 18th March	2.00
W. J. McRee—Fined by default	2.00
Cr. by cash March 18th	2.00
Jas. W. Betheny—Fined by default	2.00
W. C. T. King—Fined by default	2.00
Cr. by cash March 18th	2.00
Jas. A. Wood—Fined by default	2.00
E. R. Childers—Fined by default	2.00
Cr. by cash March 18th	2.00
Thos. Summers—Fined by default	2.00
Cr. by cash March 18th, 1848	2.00
George W. Tate—Fined by default	2.00
Cr. by cash March 18th, 1848	2.00
W. A. Tarrant—Fined by default	2.00

Signed: R. A. L. McCurdy, President; John Johnson,  
1st. Lieut C. B. Sturdivant, 2nd Lieut.

1848

Summerfield Alabama

Page 16

Feby 5th—By motion made and seconded the By Laws were suspended  
with regard to the uniform Allowing a reasonable time to  
procure the same (I E) the portion that requires each member  
to parade fully uniformed

On motion made by B. I. Harrison and seconded that the later clause of the 5th article be altered and so as to read to be fined Fifty cents for each article of uniform Deficent instead of Two Dollars if not fully uniformed. Carried by a large majority.

March 4th—Lafayette Artillery to R. A. L. McCurdy Dr.

To 1½ Lb. powder	75c
To money paid George W. Overton	\$1.00
To drum cord	25c
To rope for	

1848 Summerfield Alabama

Mar. 4th—At a Company Court Martial held for the Lafayette Artillery Capt. R. A. L. McCurdy presided. 1st Lieut J. Johnson, 2nd Lieut. C. B. Sturdivant, the following members were tried for failior to do duty on the 5th Feby (viz)

1. James M. Sherrer—excuse knew nothing of the muster		Excused
2. W. J. McRee—was out of the County on that day		Excused
3. H. M. Fuller—knew nothing of the muster		Excused
4. P. P. Jackson—no appearance	Fined	\$2.00
March 18th Released by vote of the Company		
5. W. T. C. King—No appearance	Fined	\$3.00
6. E. R. Childers—No appearance	Fined	\$2.00
7. Geo. W. Tate—No appearance	Fined	\$3.00
Cr. by cash 18th, 1848		\$3.00

1848 Summerfield Alabama

March 4th—8. John Kennedy—no appearance	Fined	\$2.00
9. Wm. S. Johnson—did not know of the muster until that morning and then not in time to prepare for same.		Excused
Joseph Willis—To Company Dr.		
To one cap		\$1.50
To Initiation fee		1.50
Paid March 18th	\$1.50	

James Clark—To Company Dr.	
To Initiation fee	\$1.50
John D. Beaty—To Company Dr.	
To cap and belt	\$1.75
To Initiation fee	1.50
W. S. Johnson—To Company Dr.	
To Initiation fee	1.50
Samuel Shelby—To Company Dr.	
To Initiation fee	1.50

## Page 19

1848 Summerfield Alabama

March 18th—The following officers held a Company Court Martial for the Trial of Defaulters at Company muster on the 4th of March (viz)

R. A. L. McCurdy, President  
 1st. Lieut. John Johnson  
 2nd Lieut. C. B. Sturdivant

L. J. Moore—Fined by default	\$2.00
P. P. Jackson—Did not know of the muster	Excused
W. T. C. King—Fined by default	\$3.00
E. R. Childers—Fined by default	3.00
G. W. Tate—Fined by default	3.00
Credit by cash	\$3.00
John Kennedy—Fined by default	2.00
Samuel Shelby—Fergot the day	Fined 1.50
Settled by cash	\$1.50
Elias Oden—Fined by default	2.00
Paid by uniform	\$2.00

## Page 20

1848 Summerfield Alabama

April 8th—The following officers held a Company Court Martial for the trial of defaulters on the 18th of March (viz)

R. A. L. McCurdy, President  
 1st. Lieut. John Johnson  
 2nd Lieut. C. B. Sturdivant

L. J. Moore—Fined by default	\$1.50
------------------------------	--------

Released by Court Martial on account of sickness

E. R. Childers—Fined by default	3.00
W. T. C. King—Fined by default	3.00
John Kennedy—Fined by default	\$2.00
James Nun—Fined by default	2.00
Released by company	2.00
David Smith—Fined by default \$2.00 Released by Co.	
Elias Oden—Fined by default	2.00
Paid by uniform	\$2.00
Joseph Shelby—Fined by default	\$2.00

R. A. L. McCurdy President

Signed J. Johnson

Signed C. B. Sturdivant

Page 21

1848 Summerfield Alabama

Aprile 8th—J. S. Fulford—To the Lafayette Artillery Dr.

To one cap	\$3.50
To initiation fee	1.50
Cr. returned one cap	\$3.50
Greene Gibson Dr.	
To initiation fee	1.50

At a Company Court Martial held on the 4th of July for the trial of defaulters on the 6th of May the following officers composed the Court viz

Capt. R. A. L. McCurdy President

Lieut. J. Johnson

Lieut. John Lowry

Lieut. D. O. White

B. I. Harrison—Fined by default	\$2.50
H. M. Fuller—Fined by default	2.00
P. P. Jackson—Fined by default	\$2.00
W. T. C. King—Fined by default	3.00
E. R. Childers—Fined by default	3.00

Page 22

1848 Summerfield Alabama

Wm. Kennedy—Fined by default	\$2.00
------------------------------	--------



G. W. Tate—Fined by default	3.00
John Kennedy—Fined by default	2.00
Edward Jackson—Fined by default	2.00
Samuel Feldham—Fined by default	2.00
released by the by laws on the next day	

Signed R. A. L. McCurdy President

John Johnson

John Lowry

D. O. White

Page 23

1848 Summerfield Alabama

Dec. 2nd—At a Company Court Martial this day held by the officers of the Lafayette Artillery Company for the trial of defaulters in the same on the 4th day of July last. The following members were tried

x W. H. Greene—Fined by default	\$2.00
x B. I. Harrison—Fined by Default	2.00
L. J. Moore—Fined by Default	2.00
x P. P. Jackson—Fined by Default	2.00
x W. T. C. King—exempt by seven years service	
x E. R. Childers—Fined by Default	3.00
x G. W. Tate—Fined by Default	3.00
John W. Kennedy—Fined by Default	2.00

All the fines marked "x" are issued on.

1849 Summerfield Alabama

Page 24

Jan. 6th—At a Company Court Martizl held by the officers of the Lafayette Artillery for the trial of Defaulters at a company muster on the second day of December last the following members were tried:

B. J. Harrison—Exempt by seven years service	
L. J. Moore—Exempt by seven years service	
x P. P. Jackson—Fined by Default	\$2.00
x G. A. B. Walker—Fined by Default	2.00
E. R. Childers—Exempt by service	

W. A. Tarrant—Fined ny default	2.00
Service excused. Came forward and plead exemption by seven years	
x J. E. Jackson—Fined by default	2.00

Signed

R. A. L. McCurdy President  
John Loweray  
D. O. White

Page 25

1848 Summerfield, Alabama

Feby. 3rd—At a Company Court Martial held by the officers of the Lafayette Artillery for the trial of defaulters at company muster on the 6th day of Jany last the following members were tried  
T. A. Woods—was in the lower end of the County

on busyness	Excused
x P. P. Jackson—Fined by default	\$3.00
x Wm. Kennedy—Fined by default	3.00
x James E. Jackson—Fined by default	3.00
W. A. Tarrant—Fined by default	3.00
plead seven years service	excused
Elias Oden—Fined by default	3.00
came forward on the 22nd Feby. says that he knew nothing of the muster	excused
W. S. Johnson—sick famely	excused

Signed

R. A. L. McCurdy president  
R. U. Bryan  
George W. Overton

Page 26

1849 Summerfield Alabama

Feby 22nd—At a Company Court Martial held by the officers of the Lafayette Artillery for the trial of defaulters at a company muster on the 3rd day of Feby. the following members were tried

W. A. Tarrant—Fined by dafault	\$3.00
Plead seven years service	Excused
x James E. Jackson—Fined by default	\$3.00

Joseph Shelby—Fined by default	1.50
Paid Jany. 5th, 1850	\$1.50
x P. P. Jackson—Fined by default	3.00
G. A. B. Walker—The capt. stated that Mr. Walker was absent near Carlowville on that day	Excused
Wm. Kennedy—Was in Montgomery on that day	excused
Elias Oden—Did not know anything of the muster	Excused
Signed R. A. L. McCurdy president	
R. U. Bryan	
George W. Overton	
D. O. White	

## Page 27

1849 Summerfield, Alabama

April 7th—At a Company Court Martial held for the trial of Defaulters at a company muster of the Lafayette Artillery on the 22nd of Feby. the following members were tried

P. P. Jackson—On account of bad health he is excused	
W. A. Tarrant—Fined by default	\$2.00
According to by laws which give a hearing at the next muster remitted \$2.00	
Edward Jackson—Fined by default	\$3.00
Joseph Shelby—Excuse he gave W. Grant his uniform with the understanding that Grant was to take the place of Shelby in the company which he failed to do	Excused

Signed R. A. L. McCurdy President  
R. U. Bryan  
George W. Overton  
D. O. White

## Page 28

1849 Summerfield Alabama

May 5th—At a Company Court Martial held for the trial of Defaulters at a company muster of the Lafayette Artillery on the 7th of Aprile last the following members were tried

G. A. B. Walker—Fined by default	\$2.00
Wm. Kennedy—Had to attend at Cahawba to	

transfer a land warrant According to appointment and was from circumstances obliged to attend to it on that day

Excused

W. A. Tarrant—Served his seven years in the company

Excused

x Edward Jackson—Fined by default

\$3.00

W. Grant—Had Joseph Shelby's uniform borrowed and Shelby came the day previous and took it away that he could not procure a uniform on that day

Excused

Signed—R. A. L. McCurdy President

G. W. Overton

D. O. White

Page 29

1849 Summerfield Alabama

May—At A Company Meeting of the Lafayette Artillery the meeting being called to order by the Capt. and its object set fourth When an Election of Officers took place and resulted in the re Election of R. A. L. McCurdy Captain

Wm. Kennedy 1st Lieut.

J. H. Morrow 2nd Lieut.

D. O. White, 3rd Lieut.

The Undersigned Managers Declare the above named persons Duly Elected

Signed J. Johnson

D. O. White

W. J. McRee

Managers

A resolution was then offered by W. J. McRee and seconded

That Whereas there is no means of collecting the fines of the company for want of an officer for that purpose Therefore

Resolved that this Company Elect sum member As Constable for the company and that he recognezed and remunerated the same as beet Constable and Who shall also act as treasurer of said Company

Which was unanimously adopted And George W. Overton Elected

Signed Capt. R. A. L. McCurdy President

## Page 30

1849 Summerfield Alabama

July 4th—At a Company Court Martial Held for the trial of Defaulters at a company muster on the 5th May last the following is the proceedings

Samuel Feldham—Fined by default	\$3.00
P. P. Jackson—Fined by default	2.00
G. A. B. Walker—Fined by default	2.00
Jas. E. Jackson—Fined by default	3.00
Edward Conner—Was sick unable to do duty	Excused

Signed—R. A. L. McCurdy President  
J. H. Morrow  
D. O. White

## Page 31

1849 Summerfield, Alabama

Nov. 3rd.—At a Company Court Martial held for the trial of Defaulters at a company muster on the 4th day of July last the following is the proceedings

R. E. Orsburn—Had the sore eyes verry bad, Had got better but was fearful that exercising would inflame them	Excused
P. P. Jackson—Fined by dafault	\$2.50
G. A. B. Walker—Fined by default	2.50
W. W. Hill—Fined by default	2.50
Samuel Shelby—Was sick not able to attend to any Busyness	Excused

Signed R. A. L. McCurdy President  
William Kennedy  
D. O. White

## Page 32

1849 Summerfield Alabama

Dec. 1st—At a Company Court Martial held for the trial of Defaulters at a company muster on the 3rd of November last the following is the proceedings

Samuel Feldham—Was in the town of Elyton	
Jefferson Cty	Excused
P. P. Jackson—Fined by default	\$2.00
G. A. B. Walker—Fined by default	2.00
James E. Jackson—Fined by default	3.00
W. S. Johnson—Had the sore eyes could not see to get about	Excused
Signed R. A. L. McCurdy President	
William Kennedy	
D. O. White	

An Election was held for a second Lieut. and R. U. Bryan was elected

### Page 33

1850 Summerfield Alabama

Jan. 5th—At a Company Court Martial held for the trial of Defaulters at a company muster on the 1st of Dec. last the following is the proceedings

P. P. Jackson—Fined by default	\$3.00
Jas. E. Jackson—Fined by default	3.00
Geo. W. Overton—Fined by default	\$2.00

Signed R. A. L. McCurdy President  
William Kennedy  
R. U. Bryan

Capt. R. A. L. McCurdy resigned his commission as Capt. of the Company for the purpose of electing one before he left & an Election was gone into and resulted in the Election of R. U. Bryan Capt.

R. E. Osburn, 1st Lieut.  
J. M. Sherrer, 2nd Lieut.

### Page 34

1850 Summerfield Alabama

March 2nd—At a Company Court Martial for the trial of Defaulters at a company muster on the 5th of January last the following is the proceedings

John D. Baty—Fined by default	\$2.00
P. P. Jackson—Fined by default—Excused	3.00



J. E. Jackson—Fined by default	3.00
Samuel Shelby—Fined by default	1.50
Joseph Shelby—Fined by default	2.00

R. M. Bryan President

R. E. Orsburn

J. M. Sherrer

D. O. White

Page 35

### Summerfield Alabama

April 2nd—At a Company Court Martial held for the trial of Defaulters at a company muster on the 2nd of March last the following is the proceedings

George W. Overton	Excused
Joseph Shelby—Fined	\$2.00
J. E. Jackson—Fined by default	\$3.00
P. P. Jackson	Excused

R. U. Bryan President

R. E. Orsburn

J. M. Sherrer

D. O. White

May 4th—At a Company Court Martial held for the trial of defaulters at a company muster on the 4th of May the following is the proceeding

J. E. Jackson—Fined by default	\$3.00
--------------------------------	--------

Signed R. U. Bryan President

R. E. Orsburn

J. M. Sherrer

D. O. White

Page 36

### Summerfield Alabama

At a Company meeting of the Lafayette Artillery the meeting being called to order by the Captain and its object set fourth when an election of officers took place and resulted in the election of

R. E. Orsburn Captain  
R. M. Bryan, 1st Lieut.  
J. M. Sherrer, 2nd Lieut.  
D. O. White, 3rd Lieut.

the undersigned managers declare the above named persons  
Duly Elected

Signed S. Felthem  
R. E. Orsburn  
George W. Overton  
D. O. White  
Managers

November 2nd, 1850

At a Company Court Martial held for the trial of defaulters at  
a company muster on the 2nd of November last the following  
is the proceeding

J. T. Shelby	Excused
W. S. Johnson—Fined by default	\$3.00
R. Nix—Fined paid	\$1.00

R. E. Orsburn President  
R. U. Bryant  
James M. Sherrer

Page 37

Summerfield Alabama

December 7th, 1850—At a Company Court martial held for the trial of  
defaulters at a company muster on the 4th of Dec. last the fol-  
lowing is the proceeding

G. W. Overton—Excused	
Joseph Shelby—Fined	paid \$1.00
J. Shearer—Fined	paid \$1.00
Robert Nix	Excused
T. A. Woods	Excused

R. E. Orsburn President  
Clevling Grant  
James M. Shearer

Jan. 4th, 1851—At a Company Court Martial held for the trial of de-

faulters at the company muster on the 4th of January 1851 the following is a proceeding

W. S. Johnson	Excused
G. W. Overton	Excused
D. O. White	Excused

R. E. Orsburn President  
Clevling Grant  
D. O. White

Page 38

1851 Summerfield Alabama

May 3rd, 1851—At a Company Court Martial held for the trial of defaulters at a company muster on the 3rd of May last the following is the proceedings

J. T. Shelby	Fined \$1.50
J. Eaves	Fined 1.50

R. E. Orsburn President  
James M. Sherrer  
A. C. Campbell

June 7th, 1851—At a Company Court Martial held for the trial of defaulters at a company muster on the 7th of June last the following is the proceedings

J. T. Shelby	fined \$2.00
Edward Conner	Excused
Clevling Grant	fined \$3.00
I. Eaves	fined \$2.00

R. E. Orsburn President  
James M. Sherrer  
A. C. Campbell

		Money Re'cd.	Money Pd. out.
1846	Summerfield, Alabama.		
May 23	Wiley Hill Initiation fee	\$ 1.50	
"	R.A.L.McCurdy Initiation fee	1.50	
"	Paid W. McRight for Music		\$ 2.50,
"	Paid Wm. Russells Boys		1.00
	Ballance		.50
26	P. P. Jackson Part of fine	.50	

	"	A. R. Rembert	Throwed in for Music	.40	
	"	B. H. Gilliam	part Initiation	.50	
	"	John Kennedy	part of fine	.50	
	"	D. O. White	Initiation	1.50	
	"	G. W. Tate	part of fine	12.00	
	"	Ira Sturdevant	put in for music	.25	
				<hr/>	
				15.65	
	"	Paid Wm. Russels Boy	for music		5.60
	"	Paid Irwins Boy	for Music		5.60
	"	Paid Boy	for carrying water		.25
		Ballance above	brot down		.50
				<hr/>	
				15.65	11.95
		Ballance on hand		3.60.	
May	28th	Paid for this Book			1.00
	30	Paid Wm. McRight	for musick		3.00
June	1	R. E. Orsburn	Initiation fee	1.50	
Jany.	1	J. M. Shearer	Initiation fee	1.50	
1847					
		H. Morrow	Initiation fee	1.50	
		H. S. Kennedy	Fine on another book	2.75	
		E. Jackson	part of fee	.50	
				<hr/>	
				11.35	
		Paid York and Sam	for music		6.75
		Ballance on hand	carried over	.60	
				Cash	Cash
SUMMERFIELD, ALA.				Rec'd.	Paid out.
1847					
Jany	4th	Rec'd of T. A. Armstrong	as charged	\$ 4.00	
		on other book			
	"	Paid to York	for music		\$ 4.00
Feb.	6	Rec'd of A. C. Campbell	by E. P.		
		Shulenberger	in part initiation fee	1.00	
	"	Paid E.P.S.	for music to York		1.00
	"	G. W. Overton	paid sills and work		

	Cannon House	7.00	7.00
"	Cash to E. P. Shulenberger (old Book)	1.50	
"	Cash paid by E.P.S. York for music		1.50
Apr. 23	Rec'd of John Johnson	1.25	
26	P. P. Jackson fine dirty musket	.50	
27	P. P. Jackson fine	1.00	
Nov. 6	Rec'd of Jas. S. Moore per fine on old Book	10.50	
"	Rec'd of John Kennedy per fine on old Book	2.50	
"	Cash paid for paper		.25
"	" " " small blank book		.10
"	" " " salt peter and rope for cannon		.18¾
"	" " Sam for music and drum		5.00
"	" " July for music on drum		4.50
"	" " York " " fife		1.00
"	" " Dr. A. J. Lawrence		5.00
		<hr/> 29.25	<hr/> 29.53¾
			.28¾
1848	Brot from the other side	.60	
March 4th	Cash paid L. A. Company		
	Rope for fuse and salt peter		.25
	To cash paid Geo. W. Overton		1.00
	to ½ quire of paper		.25
	To music for the Company		7.50
March 4th	To ½ pound of Powder		.75
"	Cash paid Sam Feby 5th		1.00
"	" " " G. W. Overton Blairs Cap		1.50
March 8th	" Cash paid for Jas. A. Woods Cap		1.62½
	Cash rec'd of G. W. Overton fine	.50	
	" " H. M. Fuller Tax	.95	
		<hr/> 2.05	<hr/> 14.27½
	1848 Summerfield, Ala.		
		Money Rec'd.	Money pd. out.
March 8	Brot from preceeding page. Ballance		

	due R.A.L. McCurdy for cash advanced		
	for Company		12.11¼
March 18	Cash for Company	43.00	
	Cash paid J. A. Lawrence		23.75
	" " Boys for music		4.50
			<hr/>
		43.00	40.36¼
			<hr/>
		2.63¾	
Aprile 8			
	Paid for a Plume for Company		3.00
	" " Music		4.50
	" " 1½ lb. Powder		.75
May 6th	Cash paid for music		4.50
	Rec'd of D. O. White	1.50	
	Paid for ½ Quire paper		.25
July 4	Paid for Music		4.50
Dec. 2.	Paid for Music		4.50
1849			
Feb. 22	Paid Sam for Music		1.50
1850			
Jany 15	4 Plumes at 5/-		2.50
			<hr/>
		4.13¾	26.00
			<hr/>
			21.86¼
	W. T. C. King 4 fines \$3.00 each		12.
			<hr/>
			9.86¼
	L. J. Moore 1 fine \$2.00		2.00
			<hr/>
Jany 15	By Order on Treasurer	7.86¼	7.86¼
1850.			
Feb. 23	Rec'd of G. A. B. Walker in full		
	for fines to date	16.00	
	Pd. G. A. B. Walker's acc.		16.00



## FANNIN FAMILY RECORDS

Compliations from a letter book in the hands of the family of that name who moved shortly before 1850, from South Carolina to Montgomery, County, Alabama. Data from Mrs. Nannie H. Raley.

---

 APPRAISERS OF PERSONAL ESTATE

Job Office of the Alabama Journal.)

## THE STATE OF ALABAMA.

To *Wm. M. Fannin, Solomon H. Huffham, Moses Rushton, Wm. A. Moore, & Jacob E. Moore*

Take Notice, That a a Court of Probate held for Montgomery County, on the 1 day of *August*, 1850 you were appointed Appraisers of the Personal Estate of *James L. Fannin*, deceased. Therefore, you, or any three or more of you, are authorized and required to appraise the said Estate, to reduce your appraisalment to writing and to return the same to said Court, duly subscribed and sworn to by you, within three months from the date aforesaid.

Witness, **HUGH W. WATSON**, Judge of the Probate Court, at Office this 1 day of *August* A. D. 1850.

*H. W. Watson*, Judge of Probate..

---

 (LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

Job Office of the Alabama Journal.)

THE STATE OF ALABAMA,     )  
MONTGOMERY, COUNTY.     )

COURT OF PROBATE, *1st August* 1850

Be it remembered, and made known to all whom it may Concern, That on the application of *William H. Fannin* to my said Court; I have caused these letters of Administration to issue in the favor of the said

*William H. Fannin*

in and upon the Goods and Chattels, Rights and Credits of  
*James L. Fannin*

deceased; and, in every case which occasion may require, the said  
William H. Fannin  
authorized to bring suit and be sued, as the lawful Administrator to the  
said  
James L. Fannin                      deceased.

Witness, HUGH W. WATSON, Judge of our said Court, this 1 day  
of August, A. D. one thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty, and the 75th  
of American Independence.

HUGH W. WATSON, Judge of Probate.  
Montgomery, Feb'y 8, 1849.

Mr. Fanning.

Bought of E. J. DONNELL,  
Wholesale Dealer in

DRY-GOODS, GROCERIES, HARDWARE, AND CROCKERY:

Spun Cotton, Osnaburgs, Castings, Cutlery, Coffee, Sugar, Bacon  
Prints, Kerseys, Hats, and Caps Axes, Trace-Chains, Cheese,  
Tobacco, Rice, Boots and Shoes &C, Nails, &c., Flour, Licquors,  
Soap &c Ginger, Pepper, Spice, Cloves, Nutmegs, Salts, Allum, Salt-  
petre, Copperas, Sanish Brown, Madder, Mustard, Teas, Castor Oil,  
Lard Oil, White Lead, &c.

1 Sack Coffee	138 @ 7c	9.66
1 Sack		1.50
5 Gals. Whiskey	35	1.75
1 Bushell Potatoes		1.50
1 lb Powder		.40
32 lbs Nails		2.00
12 yds Linsey		3.00
1 Bolt Osnaburg	29¼—9½c	2.75
9 yds Hickry	18¾	1.69
1 paid Shoes		1.25
		-----
		25.50
1 grind stone		2.00
		-----
		\$27.50

Rec'd paym't  
Bill of articles bought Febr. 8/49.                      E. J. Donnell.

South Carolina ) Personally appeared William Bratcher before  
 Orngh District ) me and being Sworn as the Law Directs on his  
 oath saith that a Certain Spotted sow pig that has been lately and is  
 at this time as far as he knows in a pin at the plantation where William  
 Duitt lately lived and his family is now living he the said Deponand  
 Saw said pig sucking a sow of James Fannins and Does veryly believe  
 that said pig was the property of said James Fannin.

Sworn before me the 20th November 1819—Joseph Fannin, J. P.

his  
 William X Bratcher  
 mark

### Cure for the Yellow Water . . .

Take 1 Double hand full of alder bushes

1 Double hand full of spice wood bushes

1 Double hand full of Sassafas bushes

1 single hand full of the root of star grass

Put them in three gallons water and boil it to one 1 gallon

Give a half pine three times a day and suffer them to drink nothing  
 but water off the root of Sassafas. At the commencement of this you  
 will take a gallon of blood from the horse. Then you will take as much  
 as a pint every other day till he is cured of the disease.

March 10, 1857.

### Cure for Bots.

Take ½ pint Vinegar ½ pint soft soap h  
 alf pine gin ½ pine Mollasses well shaken  
 and given while foming.

### Receipt for the Dropsey.

1 pint of honey

1 Spponfull of Shell Durst

1 Spponfull of Jerusalamoke juice

1 Spoonfull of black pepper

1 Spoonfull of bread leaf leak

1 Spoonfull of ground ginger

1 Spoonfull of brimstone

First morning take what will ly on the pint of a case knife -----

The second morning what wil ly on the pint of a caseknight.

-----and then a small table spoonfull -----.

Directions for taking of the medicine firs you must mix them well together -----.

1 Spoonfull of star grass juice take care to eat no grease such as fat meat or butter. You must keep from ketching of cold.

-----

1 Bottle Molasses & make two of it

12 hours before giving the medicine

8 Drams of Allows

10 Callomel

2 Drams Giner

4 Drops Spirits turpentine

made up in Soap. Dost for horse.

-----

Headquarters 16th Army Corps.

OFFICE PROVOST MARSHAL

Montgomery, Alabama. *June 1, 1865.*

I, the undersigned J. Fannin

Private C. 8 Ala Cav.

DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR that I will not bear arms against the United States of America, or give any information, or do any military duty whatever, until regularly exchanged as a prisoner of war.

John Fannin.

-----

DESCRIPTION . . .

Height, 5 feet, 10 inches. Hair, gray, grey. Complexion, Fair.

-----

I certify that the above parole was given by me on the date above given, and the above named Prisoner will not be desturbed by United States authorities so long as he observes the conditions of his parole, and the laws and regulations in force where he resides.

BY ORDER OF MAJOR GENERAL A. J. SMITH.

J. A. Seaton

Capt. 72d Ills. Inf., and Ass't Provost Marshall

## FLAGS OVER ALABAMA

BY MARY S. OWSLEY\*

Any flag is more than a brightly colored piece of cloth. A flag is a symbol, or sign, that stands for an idea, a cause, or a purpose. Colors and designs used in flags have special meaning. These colors and designs tell a story, the story of the ideals, hopes, goals and history for which the different flags stand.

Each country in the world has a flag of its own, or national flag, as its chief symbol. Such flag stands for the country's land, its people, its government and the gains, hopes and ideals of its people. In its own land, a country's flag commands the honor and love of its citizens, and can stir them to joy and sadness, to courage and sacrifice, according to when and how it is used. Abroad a country's flag is respected as the emblem of the people it represents.

Let us hear the story which these Flags Over Alabama have to tell us.

## UNITED STATES

The flag of the United States is a visible symbol of the ideal aspirations of the American people. It is the one focus in which we Americans lay down differences and unite in reverential devotion. Because this flag represents the United States and all the ideals of the United States, every American honors it as the highest symbol of his country. Because its creation dates back to 1777, the flag of the United States is the fourth oldest national flag in the world. It stands for the hard work and sacrifice of millions of Americans who have helped to make the United States one of the greatest powers in the world's history. Its thirteen red and white stripes represent the thirteen original colonies. Its forty-eight white stars in rows on a blue field represent the union of the states composing the United States. In 1782, the Department of State said the colors have these meanings:

Red stands for hardiness and courage.

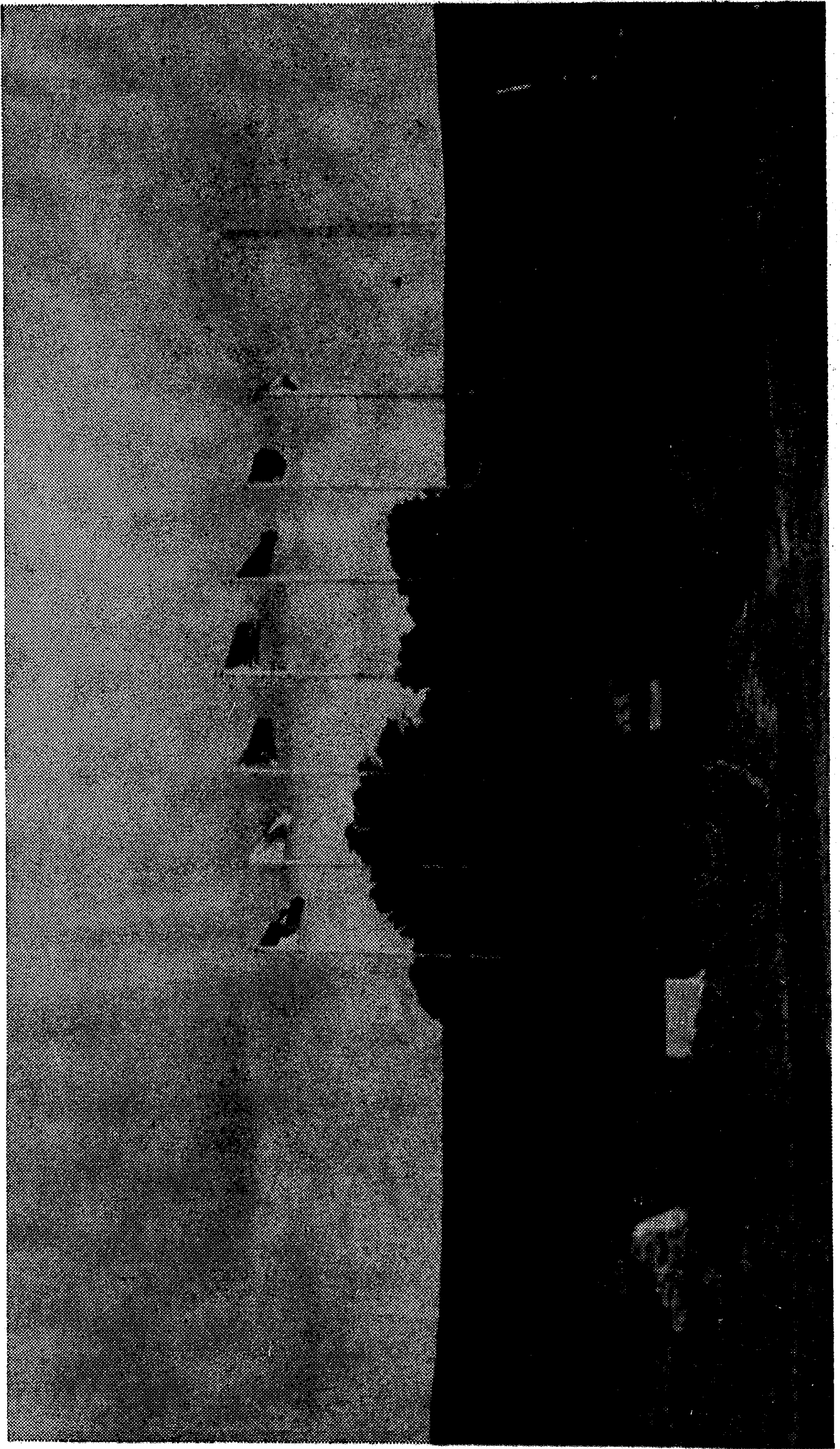
White is the symbol of purity and innocence.

Blue is the color of vigilance, preverance, and justice.

---

\*Read by Charles L. Clemons, Jr., at dedication of "Flags Over Fort Morgan", June 23, 1956.







As we gaze on "Old Glory" here today may it speak to our hearts in a glorious sort of way, as in the words of Franklin K. Lane, once Secretary of the Interior, we hear it say:

"I swing before your eyes as a bright gleam of color, a symbol of yourself, the pictured suggestion of that big thing which makes this nation. My stars and stripes are your dream and your labors. They are bright with cheer, brilliant with courage, firm with faith, because you have made them so out of your hearts. For you are the makers of the flag and it is well that you glory in the making."

## SPANISH

Alabama, as a territory and then as a state of the union, had her beginnings. The people who first roamed the forests and fished in the streams were the Indians, with their banners and feathers. Then, in the period of time from 1519-1670, came white men to these shores, Spanish explorers, bearing the four-quartered flag, sometimes called the Columbus flag. This flag, borne by De Soto in 1540, had on it the emblems, or arms, of Leon and Castile. These were the kingdoms of Ferdinand and Isabella, rulers of Spain. The emblem of Leon was a golden turreted castle on a red field; the emblem of Castile was a red lion on a field of silver. Under this flag was the Spanish re-occupation of this territory 1780-1813.

## FRENCH

The period of the French conquest of the territory was from 1699-1763. It was about 1702-1711, that Iberville and Bienville, explorer and discoverers, established the first white colony at what is now Mobile. The flag of this period was a banner with three gold fleur-de-lis on a white field. Why or when the French rulers adopted the fleur-de-lis as their national emblem is not known. Charles V established the number as three on the flag in 1376 in honor of the Trinity. White was from the Bourbon rulers.

## BRITISH

As part of West Florida, the territory around Mobile was included in the land which France ceded to England in 1763, by the treaty of Paris, British flags replaced French flags. Typifying the United Kingdoms of England and Scotland, King James I combined the red cross of

St. George of England with the white cross of St. Andrew of Scotland, thus forming the two cross union flag. This Grand Union flag was flown over the territory until 1780, when at the Spanish reoccupation, for the second time the Spanish flag was unfurled over the part of the country south of the 31st parallel. By the treaty of 1783, which ended the Revolutionary War, England ceded to the United States all the country south of Canada and north of the 31st parallel, but by another treaty on the same day, between England and Spain, England ceded to Spain all of West Florida which extended to 32° 28', thus "sewing dragons' teeth." The 31st parallel became the international boundary between the United States and Spain. In 1813, the United States occupied Mobile, claiming it under the Louisiana Purchase. The Spanish flag was again furled and for the first time the flag of the United States floated above all of present Alabama.

### REPUBLIC OF ALABAMA

In 1817, part of the Mississippi Territory became the Alabama Territory. Two years later, in 1819, the Alabama Territory became the State of Alabama and entered the union as the twenty-second state. Until the state seceded from the Union on Jan. 11, 1861, Alabama used the United States flag on all formal occasions. However, when the Secession Convention met in Montgomery, the capital city, in 1861, and voted for the state to withdraw from the Union, a flag made by the ladies of Montgomery was presented to the Convention by one of the delegates. This became the first flag of the state and was called the "Secession Flag of Alabama" or the "Flag of the Republic of Alabama."

On one side of the flag was the Goddess of Liberty holding in her right hand an unsheathed sword; in the left, a small flag with one star. In an arch above this figure were the words—*Independent Now and Forever*. On the reverse side there was a large cotton plant in full fruit and flower with a rattle snake at the roots, about to spring into action, signifying the danger of treading upon the rights of the people. Beneath the cotton plant were the Latin words *Noli Me Tangere*, which mean, "Tread Not On Me."

The original of this flag floated over the dome of the Capitol for a short time. Because of inclement weather, it was lowered and placed in the Governor's office for safe keeping. There it remained until taken by a Federal soldier with Wilson's raiders at the end of the War Be-

tween the States. For many years this flag lay in a museum cabinet in Iowa, erroneously labeled as a "Captured Confederate Battle Flag." When the facts (as discovered by Miss Frances Hails of the Department of Archives and History) were brought to the attention of the Governor of Iowa in 1938, the Legislature of that state voted to return the flag to the State of Alabama. It was brought to Montgomery, accompanied by three members of the Legislature of Iowa as a Guard of Honor, and presented with solemn ceremonies to Governor Frank M. Dixon, in the presence of a joint session of the Alabama Legislature.

### *C.S.A. BATTLE FLAG*

Alabama was the fourth state to secede from the union and was one of the seven states who formed the Confederate States of America. Therefore, the next flag to float over Alabama soil was the first flag of the Confederacy, the "Stars and Bars." This flag looked much like the "Stars and Stripes" and during the battle of Manassas (Bull Run) in July, 1861, soldiers had difficulty in distinguishing between the two flags. As a result, General Beauregard designed the Confederate battle flag, used by southern soldiers throughout the war. It was the oblong St. Andrew's cross in blue with a white edge, mounted on a square field of red. Thirteen stars on the blue stripe represented the States of the Confederacy. This familiar flag is used here today, calling again to our minds the noble courage, heroism and high ideals of the people it represented during that period of great conflict. This flag is dear to the heart of every true southerner.

### *ALABAMA*

After the defeat of the Confederate army in 1865, the flag of the United States replaced any Confederate flag. Alabama was readmitted to the Union in 1868. However, it was not until Feb. 16, 1895, that the Legislature of Alabama adopted a new state flag. This flag embodies the principal feature of the Confederate Battle Flag, which was a St. Andrew's cross, and as you see it today, our present state flag is a red St. Andrew's cross on a square white field, thus perpetuating Alabama's confederate heritage.

### *CONCLUSION*

As we today gaze on the flags that have floated over Alabama, let us pause in reverence and gratitude as we think of the many people who

have lived under these flags and have contributed in so many noble ways to the upbuilding of our great state.

In area, Alabama consists of 51,609 square miles. With the flat sandy land along the coastline of the Gulf of Mexico, the fertile Black Belt, the scenic beauty of her northern lakes and mountains which make up a part of the Tennessee Valley Area, and with her navigable rivers, Alabama presents a unique diversification of topography. There is a pleasant climate the year round.

Alabama is a land of abundant resources, with her agricultural products, coal and iron ore, minerals, quarries of marble, lumber, cattle and other products. It is truly a goodly land, a land of opportunity, as its great industrial development moves forward with more speed each year. Even though her resources and industrial opportunities are outstanding, Alabama's greatest asset lies in her three million people. These are people of hardy courage and faith, living by the motto: "We Dare Defend Our Rights." As these people look to the future, may they proudly remember that the name Alabama means, (according to Choctaw language) "Thicket—Clearers" and may truly represent the character of Alabamians, both in the past and present era of growth, when with uplifted aspirations and clear vision, they are *opening the way* to newer ideals and the development of the best in life and human endeavor. In so doing, may her people forever sing:

"Alabama, Alabama, we will aye be true to thee."

#### Bibliography:

Word Book Encyclopedia F - 1956

Compton's Pictured Encyclopedia - Flags of All Nations - 1953

Alabama Statistical Register, 1951

Alabama Emblems

Manufacturers Record - Vol. 127 - 1956 Blue Book Edition No. 5.

